



The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com



@TheGuardianTz01 theguardiantd paper.ippmedia.com www.ippmedia.com +255 745 700 710 LIKE & FOLLOW US

ISSN 0856 - 5434 ISSUE No. 9037 • PRICE: Tsh 1,000, Kenya sh100 TANZANIA TUESDAY 19 DECEMBER, 2023

National Pg 3
NHIF unveils new package for members

National Pg 4
Minister challenges IAA graduates

National Pg 6
ACT-Wazalendo warns village leaders

Page 13

BoT unveils financial education curriculum

By Carlos Banda

FINANCIAL knowledge needs to be pushed to the common people if inclusiveness and service delivery sustainability are to be realized in the financial sector value chain, a top official has declared.

Emmanuel Tutuba, governor of the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) made this observation in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the launch of the curriculum for certified financial educators, grooming finance experts from financial institutions to share the knowledge with financial service consumers at the low end.

"The new curriculum targets at addressing the challenges arising from inefficient financial literacy countrywide, as financial literacy educators will be put to competency modules to spread the knowledge to people," he said.

The modules cover financial numeracy skills, financial ecosystem, money management, financial obligation and person-

TURN TO PAGE 2

Samia: Dollar shortage 'was more manageable'



By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has declared that the foreign currency situation in Tanzania is better than most neighbouring countries, asking industrialists to target higher export levels to make the country earn more foreign currency.

Speaking at the 17th President's Manufacturer of the Year Awards (PMAYA) organised by the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI), she said she was pleased to hear that there is a car assembly plant in Mkuranga, Coast Region, that has been using local raw materials.

She said the government has been increasing the withdrawal level for large businesses needing US dollars on a daily basis, from 0.5m dollars in one day to 2.0m dollars.

"Compared to our neighbours we have a little relief as we started with the \$0.5m limit went to \$1m and now it is \$2m per day," she stated, affirming that withdrawals near our borders stand at a maximum of \$0.5m per day.

The government has taken measures to protect foreign currency reserves, reducing purchases of goods abroad and propelled the cultivation of fast-growing crops with a ready foreign market.

At the same time, the president announced at the meeting that two power plants at the Julius Nyerere Hydroelectric Power Project (JNHPP) in Rufiji District, Coast Region will be switched on

TURN TO PAGE 2

SPORTS

SIMBA SC TAKES ON WYDAD AC IN HIGH-STAKES CAF CL TIE

Page 20

President Samia Suluhu Hassan presents a trophy to Bonite Bottlers Ltd managing director Raman Anantha Narayanan after the company emerged runners up in the non-alcoholic drinks category at the 17th President's Manufacturer of the Year Awards (PMAYA) organised by the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) in Dar es Salaam on Sunday. PHOTO: Correspondent Miraji Msala

COP28 benefits: Minister touts green energy projects

By Henry Mwangonde

MORE than 50 companies have shown interest to support Tanzania's efforts in climate change mitigation and investing in green energy projects, the government has declared.

Dr Selemani Jafu, the Union and Environment state minister in the Vice President's Office (VPO) said at a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday that this expression is tied to resolutions of the just ended United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP28) held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Elaborating on the benefits of the conference, he said senior government officials met with stakeholders and financial institutions who promised to mobilise funds to support the clean cooking programme championed by President Samia.

Through the meeting, Tanzanian investors met with counterparts and discussed investment opportunities related to climate change, with 56 companies airing interest in making such investments here, he stated.

Tanzania will get funds for projects, technology, expertise and initiate specific programmes related to climate change, he said, highlighting the African clean cooking energy programme, health and implementation of strategies to strengthen resilience in water, forests and ocean resources sustainability.

Africa's needs for clean cooking energy for women requires upwards of \$4bn annually, he stated, noting that Tanzania expects to obtain a good chunk of that programme.

Countries will set strategies for private sector involvement to distribute renewable energy in most spheres to cut the impact of climate change, he said, referring to government plans to mobilise \$1.8bn for drilling 65,000 water wells. Each well will serve 16 farmers to irrigate farms averaging 2.5 hectares per farmer, he said.

COP 28 delegates agreed on 11 goals, atop of which is operationalization of a fund to deal with loss and damage caused by climate change, headed by an advisory board to allocate the funds, he said.

There is a marketing and non-market system for carbon trading, with countries insisting on strengthening national strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, plus enhancement of the market aspects of carbon trading, he said.

Developing countries need to build capacity regarding as to reporting efforts taken to deal with climate change, with accent on a transparent reporting system for aid given to those countries, he specified.

To strengthen the implementation of measures to reduce greenhouse gas emis-

TURN TO PAGE 2

BATTLING MAN UTD HOLD LIVERPOOL AS ARSENAL TOP PREMIER LEAGUE

Page 19



DERM group

25th Anniversary Of PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Derm Group (T) Ltd and its subsidiaries wishes to inform its esteemed clients and business partners that our offices will be closed during the festive season with effect from Friday **22nd December 2023**.

Business will resume on Monday 8th January 2024.

Our site operations and regional offices in Dodoma, Geita, Songwe, Tanga, Mbeya, Mtwara, Kigoma and Zanzibar shall not be affected by this closure.

Any inconveniences caused is highly regretted. We would like to thank all our clients and business partners in general for their continued patronage of our services throughout the year.

"We wish you all a Merry Christmas and prosperous, productive and innovative 2024".

dermgrouptz
info@derm.co.tz
www.derm.co.tz

Samia: Dollar shortage 'was more manageable'

FROM PAGE 1

early next year, easing the reliability of power supply countrywide.

In the principal awards event, NBC Bank as the main sponsor where the overall winner was Tanzania Breweries Ltd (TBL) followed by Tanzania Cigarette Co. (TCC) and TotalEnergies, while Bonite Bottles emerged the first runner up for producers of non-alcoholic beverages.

One plant at JNHPP will next month be switched on to start producing electricity, followed by another in April, levelling up the power supply and eliminating outage complaints.

"There are nine plants, now two plants will be switched on to begin with. It is our hope that this will greatly help to increase power availability and reduce complaints about power cuts," she stated.

She similarly affirmed that Tanzania bucked the global trend of industrial sector declined noticed two years, as in Tanzania the sector was growing even if the pace somewhat slackened.

"Statistics show that we are doing very well in the industrial sector, but if there are challenges now it is our responsibility to take quick steps to solve them so that we can go faster," she told the gathering.

Efforts must be made to eliminate industrialists' dependence on imported raw materials and instead raw materials available in the country, she said, noting that if industries get rid of that dependence, more products will be sold at lower prices for local and international markets, earning foreign currency.

She tasked the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI), a major stakeholder in the awards event, that its members can help the country a lot to reduce the dollar shortage by uplifting our export levels, equally upbeat that from next year Tanzania will get rid of the peren-

nial shortage, producing a surplus for sale abroad.

She appealed for strengthening of tax compliance and pay taxes voluntarily as the government has created a good environment. No one was being pushed in relation to tax payments, she stated.

Businessmen are witnesses that there is no tax demanded by force these days, "so what I am asking of you is to pay tax voluntarily and follow the laws of our country," she said, hinting that despite often borrowing money, "domestic income is satisfactory and we can afford to do our little things."

She expressed the feeling of the minister for Industries being close to industrialists, "to take their challenges and solve them immediately since the country has opened up and many people want to come."

She praised CTI for improving from year to year, with awards being consistent for the whole period, while other formations are set up and wither away soon.

Leodegar Tenga, the CTI executive director, described the annual awards as a great catalyst for industrial development, pointing at increased production and higher quality of products as years go by.

The criteria to find winners included production efficiency, export performance, technology investments, gender balance and contribution to society.

Dr Ashatu Kijaji, the Industry and Trade minister, said they have agreed with industrialists to produce products that will be able to compete in international markets.

To ensure that the nation benefits from the free trade zone arrangement in Africa, a national strategy for implementing the protocol has been completed, set for launching early next month, along with a national committee to oversee its implementation, she added.

COP28 benefits: Minister touts green energy projects

FROM PAGE 1

based on the procedure of the Climate Change Convention where youths between the ages of 18 and 35 will be appointed to conduct discussions to strengthen the participation of the youth in climate change activities, he added.

A youth programme was set up,

BoT unveils financial education curriculum

FROM PAGE 1

al financial protection, he stated.

The targeted groups are financial regulators, corporate financial outreach officials, government entities, parastatal institutions and non-governmental organizations involved in delivering financial education, he said.

Urging for inclusive implementation of the curriculum, he said it was prepared in an inclusive manner, thus its implementation phase has to be inclusive as well, he said.

The government hopes to see all groups of the society benefiting from the knowledge embedded in the curriculum, he said, challenging higher learning institutions to effectively engage stakeholders.

"Sustainable initiatives that can withstand challenges during implementation are the ones that reap benefits to the public," he said, underlining expectations that financial literacy will be long lasting. People in the informal sector need to be reached out and empowered with this knowledge, he specified.

Bengi Issa, the National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) executive secretary, commended the initiative towards boosting financial literacy countrywide.

It will help women often exposed to challenges in doing business as most of them have inadequate financial knowledge, she said, affirming it is a pillar in pursuing the public economic empowerment policy.

Finance and investment are crucial pillars in individual and national economic development, she said, citing key objectives in empowering

people as access to finance and having control over their income like having a savings account.

Without savings no plans are possible, this a savings account is a milestone, she said, asserting that spreading the curriculum will help address challenges facing budding entrepreneurs all over the country.

She said many women meet with challenges, delve into entrepreneurship where they make up 54 percent of micro-economic units and small businesses as a whole.

"Many of them wish to expand their capital but they fail to do so because they do not have the right financial understanding," she said, pointing out that one might see women accessing loans from micro-finance institutions "but they fail to understand what it means to have a loan."

Someone may take a loan and will be required to pay it back with an interest of three percent. However, due to financial illiteracy they cannot really understand the burden that comes with the loan, while the problem is also evident in the formal sector, as even educated people struggle with handling money and budgeting, she remarked.

Prof Andrew Mbwambo, Iringa University deputy vice chancellor, said that if the curriculum is properly taken up, the public will have a reliable source of knowledge with clear content.

Financial interaction will be more articulate, making the public adequately knowledgeable about what financial acts involve, clearly evaluating what can be properly done and in what way.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan presents an award to the Spokesperson of Alliance One Tobacco Tanzania Limited, (PMAYA) advocate John Magoti. His company won the large category of the tobacco processing sector of the Presidential Manufacturing of the Year Awards (PMAYA) organised by CTI. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Study shows risks of using painkillers too early in life

LONDON

The prolonged use of painkillers in children and young individuals may be associated with later-life challenges in mental health and addiction, a new study shows.

Researchers said treating chronic pain in those under the age of 25 is essential, but warned the regular use of painkillers could lead to over-reliance.

The study by scientists at St George's, University of London alongside the University of Liverpool, looked at anonymous medical records of 853,625 people aged two to 24.

The analysis revealed that 115,101 patients were diagnosed with chronic pain lasting more than three months. Among this group,

20,298 received repeat prescriptions for painkillers without a specific diagnosis while 11,032 were both diagnosed and prescribed painkillers.

Subsequent follow-ups, spanning an average of five years after turning 25, revealed that the 11,644 individuals experienced a "substance misuse event", 143,838 reported poor mental health, and 77,337 received at least one opioid prescription.

"The findings are concerning as those under 25 are particularly vulnerable. This means regular use of painkillers to ease chronic pain may lead to unintentional over-reliance on pain medication in adult life. Exploring when the right time is to refer these young people to specialised pain services for more targeted support will also be a vital factor

when revamping pain management practice," said Professor Reece Sofat from the University of Liverpool, who was involved in the research.

Highlighted in the study was the over-representation of patients with learning disabilities and autism in the cohort receiving repeat prescriptions, signalling potential over-prescribing within this vulnerable group.

The team also suggested that the observed trends in their study might be attributed to various factors, one of which could be that individuals prescribed painkillers from a young age may have experienced more severe or frequent pain.

"It's clear that chronic pain management in young people needs to be optimised," Dr Andrew Lambarth, an academic clinical fellow

in clinical pharmacology and therapeutics at St George's, University of London, said.

"We know under-treating pain can cause harm in both the short and long term, but it's also essential to avoid over-reliance on medicines that could lead to dependence on prescription or non-prescription drugs in later life," Lambarth said.

"We now need to work with all healthcare providers to help them weigh up the risks and benefits of prescribing painkillers at a young age, and encourage the consideration of other recognised and effective non-drug management approaches."

The findings have been published in *The Lancet Regional Health - Europe*.

AGENCIES



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa listens to Coca Cola Kwanza Company officer Victor Byemelwa when he visited the company's pavilion before closing the summit of the 50th anniversary of the College of Social Welfare in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Prime Minister's Office

Senegal court clears jailed opposition leader Sonko for presidential run

DAKAR

A Senegalese judge last week ordered that jailed opposition leader Ousmane Sonko be reinstated on the electoral roll, clearing the way for him to stand in next year's presidential election.

Sonko was struck off Senegal's electoral register after being sentenced in June to two years' imprisonment for morally corrupting a young person.

The 49-year-old political thorn in President Macky Sall's side finished third in the 2019 presidential election.

But his deregistration from the electoral lists rendered him ineligible to take part in the February polls.

Sonko has been at the centre of

a stand-off with the state that has lasted more than two years and sparked several episodes of deadly unrest.

In ordering Sonko's reinstatement, the judge in the capital Dakar confirmed a ruling in October by a court in Ziguinchor, the southern city where Sonko is mayor.

Last month, the West African nation's top court had disagreed with that regional court ruling.

But it nevertheless decided that Sonko's case should go back to the Dakar court.

Sonko now has until December 26 to present his candidacy and obtain the necessary sponsorships.

Jubilant supporters were in court on Thursday and shouted his name after the ruling was announced.

The firebrand politician has faced

a series of legal woes over the past two and a half years.

He and his lawyers say the court cases are part of a plot to torpedo his political career.

Legal wrangles

But El Hadji Diouf, lawyer for the state, said: "We will file an appeal in cassation as we did in Ziguinchor and the same procedure will take its course and the decision will be overturned. "Those celebrating today got it all wrong."

One of Sonko's lawyers, Cire Cledor Ly, said that although the state could lodge an appeal with the Supreme Court, it would not stop Thursday's decision being implemented immediately.

"The electoral code is very clear. When the judge gives his decision, this decision must be immediately

carried out," he said.

After the regional court ruling, the General Directorate of Elections refused to give Sonko the official papers required by candidates to gather sponsorships.

The national electoral commission, however, asked the body to reinstate Sonko on the electoral lists and give him the documents he needed. Sonko was convicted in absentia on June 1 of morally corrupting a young person and sentenced to two years in prison.

In late July, he was arrested on other charges including fomenting insurrection, criminally associating with a terrorist body and endangering state security.

He has periodically been on hunger strikes since then.

AGENCIES



Hanang District Council Director, Francis Naumbo (3rd L) receives a donation of food items worth 10mn/- from Stanbic Bank head of personal and private banking, Omari Mtiga (2ndR) to support the victims of the mudslide in Katesh, Hanang District, Manyara Region. From left is Stanbic Bank Dodoma branch manager, Joan Mbise, Stanbic Bank head of personal banking, Emmanuel Mahodanga (2ndL) and Stanbic Bank Arusha branch manager, Hemedi Sabuni (R). Photo: Guardian correspondent

Relief as NHIF cuts burden its members

By Francis Kajubi

THE National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) has announced a new benefit package that among other issues increased consultation fee it pays health service providers for its beneficiaries to see medical doctors prior treatment at different levels of health facilities.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday NHIF's Director General Bernard Konga said that the new package arrangement that comes into effect early January next year targets at enabling health service providers to serve its members coming from different economic backgrounds at a competitive market price.

According to him, the new consultation fee package will see NHIF paying 25,000/- for its beneficiary to see an experienced specialized medical doctor at a regional referral hospital. The fee tops the 15,000/- currently paid for the same service.

"I can tell from the new package that our intention is to enable health facilities to provide services at a competitive market price thus serving many beneficiaries," said Konga.

He said the Fund will from next month pay 20,000/- for its member to see a specialized doctor at regional referral hospital up from the 15,000/- it currently pays.

With regard to the present competitive market price charged by health facilities to non-NHIF patients, the Fund has agreed with service providers to increase at least 20,000/-

for complex services offered at district hospitals.

For instance, he said, NHIF has agreed to pay a district hospital attending a patient with appendectomy 150,000/- per section up from the current 110,000/-. It has agreed to pay 130,000/- for caesarean section and BTL up from 110,000/-.

"We have come to learn that some payments we used to make were too overestimated compared to the market realities. In that case, some changes have been made on the value of payments to health providers," he said.

He asserted that the Fund shall be paying 200,000/- down from 240,000/- to a health facility that has undergone a single haemodialysis case. It will pay 14,900/- down from 33,000/- it is currently paying a health facility that undergoes erythropoietin 2,000 IU for its beneficiary.

It will further pay 15,000/- down from 66,000/- a health facility that offers an NHIF member with erythropoietin 4,000 IU section.

Konga said through the new package, NHIF will provide 124 medicines from the national essential medicines list for Tanzania Mainland (NEMLIT). It will impose an alternative for 309 medicines to make it align with the NEMLIT.

It will also initiate an addition of strength and formulation medicines to the list in consideration of medicines availability on the market.

By Guardian Reporter

DEPUTY Prime Minister, Dr Doto Biteko has said that the 80MW Rusumo Falls hydropower project, which is jointly implemented by three countries—Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi has reached 99.9 per cent and the countries had already started getting electricity from the project.

Dr Biteko said this over the weekend in Mwanza when he was chairing a meeting at the level of Ministers of energy where he is the chairman of the ministers in charge of the project from the three countries.

"We are satisfied with the good progress of the project so far, we congratulate the Board and Execu-

'80MW Rusumo Falls hydropower project is 99.9 per cent complete'

tives from the Rusumo Power Company Limited (RPCL) and the contractors for the management and implementation of this project," he said.

The deputy premier, who doubles as Energy minister said that the ministers have agreed that the project should be launched in March 2024 so they have asked the contractor to complete the project early and issue a certificate of completion of the

project. Dr Biteko said the launch will be held in the project site, while the host of the activity is Tanzania.

He said that the project is important for all three countries because these countries still have the challenge of reliable access to electricity, so the completion of the project will reduce those challenges and increase stability on the grid.

He lauded President Samia Su-

luhu Hassan, Burundian President Evariste Ndayishimiye and Rwandan President Paul Kagame for supporting the project which is almost completed.

He also commended the various stakeholders who led the project to be implemented including the World Bank (WB) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) and invited them to invest in other power generation projects that are expect-

ed to be implemented in the country.

Eng. Seleman Khamisi, Permanent secretary in the Burundian ministry of Oil, Energy and Minerals said that all three countries have agreed that the project should be launched in March and that the country will benefit from the 27 megawatts that will come from the project, which will help reduce the challenges of accessing electricity in

the country.

The Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project (RRFP) is a hydropower project under joint development by Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda through a commonly owned Rusumo Power Company (RPCL). The joint development was entered by the three governments through a Tripartite Agreement signed on February 16th, 2012. The project is located at Rusumo Falls, at the common border of Rwanda and Tanzania on River Kagera. The power production facilities are located entirely on the south side of the bank of the Kagera River in Tanzania, while the substation is located on the northern side of the bank of the river in Rwanda.

Mikumi National Park's airstrip project excites Regrow management committee

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame

THE Mikumi National Park's airstrip will be in a position to handle nine aircraft and accommodate 160 passengers at a go, upon completion.

The runaway of the airstrip has been stretched to 1.8 kilometers long, under the ongoing Resilient Natural Resource Management for Tourism and Growth (REGROW) project which is currently being executed in the tourism destinations mapped within the southern highlands circuit.

Speaking in Mikumi, the chairperson of the REGROW committee, Dr Hassan Abbas, who is also the permanent secretary in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism expressed satisfaction on the ongoing

programmes in the national park, especially the airstrip project, but insisted that the works should be accomplished in time and in line with the entailed specifications.

"I need not remind the contractors that there will be no additional time for the project to be realised," Dr Abbas pointed out.

Dr Abbas was leading the special team of the REGROW management committee which was visiting Mikumi National Park to inspect ongoing projects in the tourist destination. Apparently, members of the committee seemed impressed with the ongoing airstrip project in the conservancy.

The MNRT Permanent Secretary said the airstrip, which will not only serve Mikumi but also nearby tourist destinations, was part of the

development projects initiated by President Samia Suluhu Hassan targeting to boost tourism and conservation projects in the country.

For his part, Engineer Peter Mrosso of the Badri African Enterprises Limited the firm which is executing the construction works for the Mikumi airstrip said his office will make sure that the project is completed in time and that they will adhere to the guidelines from the REGROW committee.

The REGROW management committee comprises permanent secretaries serving under various ministries as well as officials from public institutions and other departments that have been converging in Morogoro to receive reports on project executions in the southern tourism circuit.



Mondo ward Agricultural resources centre chairman Michael Emmanuel (R) briefs Shinyanga Regional Commissioner Christina Mndeme (2nd R) on mango, spinach and okra drying processes. The centre is supported by Buzwagi Gold Mine in Kahama District. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

www.nbc.co.tz

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGES TO OUR TARIFF GUIDE

Dear customer, NBC management would like to inform you that there will be some changes to the tariff guide for the below listed service effective from 19th January 2024. All other charges not shown below will remain the same.

SERVICE	CURRENT FEE			NEW FEE		
	USD	EUR	GBP	USD	EUR	GBP
Private Banking / La Riba Private Banking						
Cash Withdraw Over The Counter	Free			Free up to 10,000 (Above is 0.5% of the amount, Max 200)		



All charges are VAT inclusive.

Prime Minister says time ripe for curriculum review

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa yesterday tasked community development colleges to do curriculum review so that it is in line with the times and provide answers to the current challenges facing the society.

Majaliwa made the call yesterday in Dar es Salaam when speaking at the climax of social welfare week and 50 anniversary of Institute of Social Work (ISW).

He said curriculum review should be in parallel with conducting various studies including studies on education and moral issues.

He said the sixth phase government will continue to implement its ambition to strengthen the welfare of the people by improving systems, monitoring and management of social welfare issues as well as allocating funds for the implementation of various interventions.

The Premier further underscored the need to evaluate the entire system of child upbringing and development which is the main basis for developing values in society.

"Parents, guardians and Tanzanians in general should all participate in protecting the rights and well-being of our children. This is the tomorrow's workforce of our nation, therefore, protection and safety of children is the responsibility of all of us. Also, the Ministry should complete the social protection programmes for it to start working," he said.

"Our country, like other countries in the world, is experiencing a moral decay challenge caused by changing lifestyles. There is no doubt that this discussion will enable us to get a common understanding as a nation to set robust strategies to overcome the challenge."

Majaliwa said that due to economic challenges, many families fail to

find enough time to raise children and young people who are important in the building of the nation.

The Premier also wanted social welfare officers to increase pace in resolving various family and marriage cases which will also help children to continue getting required services in their families.

He said that without having robust foundation of children and youth upbringing, the nation will not be able to achieve better social welfare as expected and reminded institutions involved in education, which are families, schools, religious sects and society in general to prioritize in the issue of upbringing and development of children and young people.

Majaliwa further said that the ruling-CCM election manifesto for 2020 - 2025 has specified that raising and strengthening the lives of individuals, families and groups with special needs in society be an important tool for sustainable and inclusive development.

"Access to social welfare services is a priority of the government and we have all witnessed the commitment of President Samia Suluhu Hassan in empowering needy groups to participate fully in development and social activities," he added.

Themed: "Children and Youth Upbringing for the Country's Development, the anniversary went along with a national dialogue on the area of early childhood care and upbringing.

"Access to social welfare services is a priority of the government and we have all witnessed the commitment of President Samia Suluhu Hassan in empowering needy groups to participate fully in development and social activities"

Relocate your main campus to Dodoma, RC advises IFM

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Institute of Finance Management (IFM) has been challenged to consider relocating its main campus to Dodoma city, where it has acquired massive land for expansion plans.

Dodoma Regional Commissioner, Rosemary Senyamule made the remarks here at the weekend, saying such a move would offer residents in the region and other neighbouring regions more opportunities to access higher education.

Speaking while presiding over IFM's 49th graduation ceremony at the Dodoma Campus, the RC observed that it is one of the higher learning institutions that have set inroads in the capital city.

During the event, some 121 graduates were awarded ordinary certificates, diplomas and master's degree.

Senyamule applauded IFM, terming it one of such higher learning that has produced many public servants and private sector players.

According to the RC, in its regional development plan, Dodoma is to have 29 higher learning institutions from the current 11 institutions, adding that once Dodoma campus is complete, IFM will help in boosting regional and national economy.

"Economy of any given country depend on financial experts it has, thus IFM is helping the government by training financial specialists" she said, adding that regional authority is ready to work closely with the institutions in fulfilling the dream to move to Dodoma city.

Earlier, the chairperson, Governing Council of IFM, Emmanuel Mjema said the institution looks forward to expansion in other areas including Dodoma where it has acquired vast land.

He said the plan is to have a modern facility that equate the capital city status and bring training closer to some public and private sector servants who find it hard to study

far away from work.

He thanked the government for the efforts to improve provision of higher education in the country. "We have received a lot from the government through HEET programme and other sources it has initiated" said Mjema.

For his part, IFM Rector, Prof Josephat Lotto noted that the institution has grown tremendously having a total of 15,000 in its campuses across the country from 72 at its inception in 1972.

This, he attributed to increase of courses from two in 1972 to 32 courses in 2022/23. This also saw the increasing number of branches from one in 1972 to three in 2022/23 and currently building fourth campus in Geita.

He said in effort to get international experience, IFM is in collaboration with other colleges outside the country including 12 universities in Asia, Europe, Germany, UK, Holland, South Africa and Rwanda.

However, he cited some challenges facing the institution in the quest to expand further as including shortage of staff at all levels, high costs of renting campus services, lack of hostels for students.

"Despite the challenges, IFM is committed to set a side budget for the fulfilling its mandate and the council is working closely with the management to realize the goals," he said.



Economy of any given country depend on financial experts it has, thus IFM is helping the government by training financial specialists



Maria Matui, Women Action Towards Economic Development (WATED)'s coordinator speaks to Civil Society Organisation (CSOs) members about feminist principles and climate change at Nendiwe Wellness Centre Mbweni in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam on Friday last week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Minister challenges IAA graduates

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

DEPUTY Minister for Agriculture, David Silinde has urged graduates from Institute of Accountancy Arusha (IAA) to stop putting in shelves their research findings instead use them to address challenges facing the society.

He made the call at the weekend here during the 25th graduation of the Institute, saying that that many students have been failing to utilise well, findings of their research projects forgetting that what they investigated can be used to transform lives of the surrounding society.

"Stop leaving your research findings on shelves especially after graduating, take them, engage the

society in order to bring change, your researches may help bring positive outcomes or productivity in the area of agriculture, production, organisation supervision, policy and laws improvements as well as address various challenges in the society," he explained.

In addition, he encouraged them to continue learning and work hard by reflecting on how to use the education they have acquired to fight poverty and bring development at family level, community and nation as a whole.

He wanted the graduates to be reliable agents of change by making good use of the skills and knowledge they acquired to bolster the country's development by translating

into actions the value addition they received in their tenure of studies.

Prof Eliamani Sedoyeka, IAA Rector said the college was issuing 71 courses where 16 are degree, 17 are diploma and 24 are certificate where 14 are masters' programmes.

He said the Institute was also reviewing curriculums in order to provide courses that align with the market needs.

Prof Sedoyeka hinted that the aim of the university is to bring excellence of education, employable skills in various areas to help the nation have enough experts.

He also said that in their five-year strategic plan (2022/2027), the Institute has continued to expand the

scope inside and outside the country and currently there are four campuses including Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Dodoma and Babati and are now working to establish one in Songea, Ruvuma.

He said that they have secured a plot where 22bn/- budget has been also set aside for the construction of the campus.

"In Dodoma, we have started construction of a new building which will accommodate 4500 people as well as working on plans to establish a new and first campus outside the country next year," he asserted.

Joseph Mwiguna, IAA leadership council vice chairman said that a total of 5,387 students graduated in the ceremony where 1139 were of Masters programme, 1027 are of degree, 1260 (diploma) and 2061 are of certificates.



President Samia Suluhu Hassani presents an award of honour and recognition to the NBC Bank CEO Theobald Sabi (C) for the recognition of the bank's contribution in achieving the 17th season of the Presidential Manufacturing of the Year Awards organised by Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Right is CTI chairman Paul Makanza. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

African scientist develops 'gene drive tech' to wipe out malaria

By Vikrant Singh

AN African scientist is working on a 'gene drive technology' that could potentially wipe out malaria or malaria-causing mosquitoes from the continent.

Abdoulaye Diabate, who was awarded the 2023 Falling Walls Prize for Science and Innovation Management for his research, is developing an innovative technique that can wipe out malaria-causing female mosquitoes by altering their genes.

Malaria is generally transmitted through the bite of female Anopheles mosquitoes, as male mosquitoes do not bite.

Under gene drive technology, female mosquitoes are prevented

from producing new female offspring by releasing genetically modified male mosquitoes in the environment.

This would lead to the depletion of female mosquitoes, thus bringing down malaria causes throughout the continent. "When the (gene-edited) mosquitoes are released in the field ... they will spread across the entire mosquito population and cut malaria transmission right away," the scientist from Burkina Faso said.

"The genetically modified mosquitoes are the ones to do the job for you ... unlike the other (malaria control) interventions where humans run from place to place to deliver," he added.

He also said that the method was more sustainable as well as budget-

friendly.

However, Abdoulaye Diabate said that the technology could still take many more years to be ready for rolling out.

Africa shoulders the world's largest malaria burden, with the continent constituting 96 per cent of the total 619,000 deaths worldwide in 2021.

According to the WHO's latest data, of those 96 per cent, 80 per cent of deaths occurred in children aged under five.

According to Diabate, developing innovative malaria-controlling tools was the only way to deal with this menace. "Although bed nets are doing a fantastic job ... we now have widespread insecticide resistance in the different species of

mosquitoes, specifically those that are transmitting malaria," he was quoted as saying.

Despite the technology being touted as the promising one, health authorities around the world have pointed out ecological concerns that may emerge.

Some advocacy groups are vehemently opposing the technology, saying its impact on the ecosystem may never be predicted.

"Every living creature, even if it appears dangerous or harmful to humans, fulfils important tasks in its habitat. The extermination or even manipulation of a species will therefore have consequences for the entire ecosystem," warned German-based advocacy group Save Our Seeds (SOS) on its website.

Tanzania expands aviation connectivity to five countries

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA has entered into bilateral and multilateral Air Services Agreements (ASAs) with new countries expanding its aviation connectivity to Poland, Czech Republic, Suriname, Algeria and the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.

This came after skillful negotiations held during the International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO) Air Services Negotiation (ICAN) event held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from December 3 to 7, 2023.

Celebrated during the first week of December annually in commemoration of the signing of the Chicago Convention in 1944, ICAN provides a pivotal platform for ICAO member states to negotiate bilateral and multilateral Air Services Agreements (ASAs).

A statement availed to the media yesterday states that, a multi-sectoral delegation from Tanzania led by the Ministry of Transport and coordinated by the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) successfully participated in ICAN2023, achieving the notable milestone by increasing Bilateral Air Services Agreements (BASAs) from 80 to 85.

"This breakthrough means that designated airlines from these five new countries now can initiate scheduled air operations between their respective nations and Tanzania. Simultaneously, Tanzanian airlines can establish routes to these countries and extend their operations to multiple points beyond, creating a network of cooperative air travel," the statement noted.

It further stated that recognizing the changing global aviation landscape, the Tanzanian delegation engaged in discussions

with experts from countries such as the United Kingdom, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, and Qatar to review and align provisions of existing BASAs with current industry dynamics.

ICAN2023 also served as a platform for technical discussions between the Tanzanian delegation and counterparts from Kenya and Oman. Specifically, discussions focused on traffic rights for all-cargo flights operated by Air Tanzania's Boeing 767 Freighter.

The aim is to foster a conducive environment with minimal restrictions, facilitating cargo services between countries.

The event, attended by representatives from over 97 states and 713 participants, facilitated close to 600 meetings during ICAN2023.

Beyond its celebratory aspect during International Civil Aviation Day, ICAN continues to play a crucial role in streamlining BASA negotiations, providing an efficient forum for ICAO Member States to converge, collaborate, and address operational challenges in the ever-evolving aviation sector.



This breakthrough means that designated airlines from these five new countries now can initiate scheduled air operations between their respective nations and Tanzania...

Norway bolsters Africa's climate defense with \$6.5million disaster financing pledge

By Special Correspondent

NORWAY has announced a financial commitment of 70million Norwegian Krone (\$6.5 million) for the African Development Bank Group programme to boost Africa's resilience and responsiveness to climate shocks.

With the pledge, Norway becomes the fifth country to join the Bank Group's Africa Disaster Risk Financing Programme (ADRFi) Multi-Donor Trust Fund, which bolsters sovereign drought insurance protection to mitigate the negative impacts in Africa of climate-related extremes such as cyclones, flooding and drought.

The financing commitment, over three years, comes as announced on the sidelines of the COP28 UN climate summit, where officials from the African Development Bank and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation met in Dubai.

Norway's Minister of International Development, Anne Beathe Tvinning, said: "Norway is proud of becoming a new donor to the Africa Disaster Risk Financing Programme and providing additional funding to reduce the risk of climate related disasters and make parametric insurance solutions more accessible to a greater variety of stakeholders on the African continent."

She added that climate change has disrupted the daily lives of many Africans. Enhancing countries' resilience and response to climate shocks by responding to early warnings, "enables mitigation

of some of the devastating effects before they have occurred - securing lives, livelihoods, and economies."

Dr Beth Dunford, African Development Bank Group Vice President for Agriculture, Human and Social Development said: "Growing numbers in the international community are realising that this African-led solution to Africa's climate change-related challenges is impactful and important. Norway's support for the ADRFi Multi-Donor Trust Fund will help bring protection to millions of the continent's most vulnerable coping with climate risk, and enhance African countries' ability to be more resilient to climate change."

Other donor countries to the ADRFi Multi-Donor Trust Fund include: the United Kingdom, Switzerland, the United States and Canada.

Under the Africa Disaster Risk Financing Programme and in collaboration with the African Risk Capacity Group, the Bank is at the forefront of promoting proactive climate risk management instruments in Africa. The Bank has invested more than \$100 million and supported 15 African countries to access sovereign insurance and financial protection against climate hazards.

Since its inception in 2018, the ADRFi programme has provided financial protection against severe droughts and tropical cyclones to more than five million people, significantly contributing to bolstering resilience in vulnerable communities.

By Special Correspondent

THE Board of Directors of the African Development Bank Group has approved a \$175 million financial package for United Bank for Africa (UBA), comprising \$100 million in long-term senior debt, \$50 million of trade finance medium-term senior debt and a \$25 million risk participation program.

The long-term senior debt will enhance UBA's capacity to finance projects in Nigeria in the key sectors of infrastructure,

agriculture and related value chains, as well as manufacturing, energy, and SMEs. The facility will be complemented with technical assistance from the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) initiative to boost access to finance and technical assistance to women-led SMEs. The trade finance senior debt will



Kiwira suburb entrepreneurs in Rungwe District, Mbeya Region conduct business at the service road along Mbeya-Kasumu highway which is against the by-laws over the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

RC advises TRA to take stringent measures against EFDs defaulters

By Correspondent James Kandoya

DAR ES SALAAM Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila has urged the Tanzania Revenue Authorities (TRA) to take stringent measures against those who tamper with Electronic Fiscal Device (EFD) when selling or buying products.

RC Chalamila made the advice yesterday in Dar es Salaam when speaking to TRA regional officers that as the authority they had a bigger role to contribute to the country's revenues.

He said before taking action, they must embark on a taxpayer's awareness campaign, especially the Kariakoo regional taxes office.

He said a drop of revenues by

only 10 per cent from the Kariakoo suburb, has adversely impacted the country's revenues.

Chalamila said that despite success achieved, there is a lot that needs to be done to meet the target including working on existing challenges.

According to him, system and infrastructure challenges and bargaining between sellers and buyers are major challenges hindering tax collection in the Dar es Salaam city.

"Let first embark on an awareness campaign for a few days, then in case anyone found tampering with EFD's machines for their own. Any kind of bargaining between buyers and sellers in the issue of EFD receipts is not acceptable and if

found anyone, take action against them," he said.

He encouraged them to work hard and should not be discouraged from customers' complaints, adding that working professionally is very important.

"As government, we are satisfied with revenue collection in Dar es Salaam city but we want you to work harder to collect more especially towards Christmas holidays," he added

Chalamila warned them not to be divisive leaders instead they must be decent leaders collaborating with all stakeholders in the chain.

Kinondoni District Commissioner Sadi Mtambule commended TRA regional offices for the outstanding performance in the 2022/2023

financial year.

He pledged to work in collaboration with TRA offices to ensure more revenues are collected in a decent environment and not a divisive one.

"We are ready to team up with TRA's staff in a special campaign aimed at increasing revenues collected from the regional and entire Dar es Salaam city.

Edmund Kawamala, the Deputy Commissioner for Domestic Revenue from the TRA said that the total country's revenues collection depends on the five tax regions all in Dar es Salaam.

He said the meeting involved TRA staff from the five regions as identified by the authority such as Tegeta, Temeke, Kinondoni, Kariakoo and Ilala.

"We have taken all the directives from the regional boss on how we can best involve our people to volunteer to pay taxes," he said.



Muheza District Land Officer in Tanga Region Selestin Liweje (L) speaks with Majengo Ward residents urging them to collect their title deeds at the registrar's office. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

AfDB approves \$175m worth facility for UBA to support private sector, infrastructure growth

provide UBA with much needed countercyclical dollar liquidity to support SMEs and local corporates involved in export-import related activities in the short to medium term.

The unfunded Risk Participation Agreement aims to strengthen UBA UK's role as regional confirming bank and by extension expand

access to international markets for largely excluded African issuing banks. The African Development Bank and UBA UK, a subsidiary of UBA PLC, will share 50/50 the default risk on a portfolio of eligible trade transactions originated by African issuing banks and indemnified by UBA UK.

Speaking after the Board

approval, Bank Group Director General for Nigeria Lamin Barrow said, "We are pleased to support UBA with this package, which aligns with four (4) of the African Development Bank's High 5 priorities namely Light up and Power Africa, Feed Africa, Integrate Africa, and Industrialise Africa."

Ahmed Attout, African Development Bank Acting Director for Financial Sector Development, said:

"This intervention will address unmet demand for trade finance in Nigeria and Africa respectively by providing medium term finance to support exports and the importation of intermediate goods required to sustain vital economic sectors. It will also unlock stable and affordable funding for SMEs who are the engine of Nigeria's economic growth and employment generation."

CSOs up for enhancing engagement in civic participation of constitution review

By Getrude Mbagu

CIVIL Society Organisations (CSOs) are jointly pulling efforts to enhance the engagement in influencing civic participation in constitution review, elections and democratic governance in the country.

This is through the implementation of the "Uraia Wetu" project under the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) which has the overall objective of increasing the capacity of CSOs and citizens to effectively participate in democratic governance processes, including constitutional review and national reconciliation processes.

Speaking during the media engagement session about progress of the project in Dar es Salaam yesterday, special projects supervisor at FCS said that CSOs have a great role to contribute to the country's development which include educating the public and promoting freedom of expression, access to information and freedom of assembly.

He said that the project wants to see more women and youth participating in the process to rewrite the national constitution, elections and other leadership positions.

Edna Chilimo, the FCS programmes manager in charge of governance and social inclusion, said the project focuses on promoting meaningful participation of civil society in multi-stakeholder policy processes and strengthening CSOs' capacity to promote public accountability.

She noted that marginalised groups like women, youth, children, and people with disabilities face difficulties when civic space is

constrained because they lack the venues to express their concerns.

According to her, the CSOs take part in providing education to communities on citizen participation in writing the new Constitution and building national cohesion.

FCS believes that when grassroots civil society is strengthened and given appropriate spaces to play its roles effectively, citizens will be aware of and exercise their rights.

Deogratius Makoti, project coordinator southern highlands zone urged the government to come up with a one stop centre system for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and CSOs enabling them to access services of all regulatory bodies at one area.

"We also urge the government through Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) to increase CSOs' awareness on legal system compliance as well as establishing regular CSOs and government engagement dialogues at all levels," he said.

"We are also calling for harmonisation of the sector because we have realised that there are so many laws and authorities governing the CSO sector which also affect progress of the sector," he added.

In May, 2023, FCS launched the Uraia Wetu programme which is funded to the tune of 4.9bn/- by the European Union (EU) to help create a better and more supportive policy framework and environment for effective civic engagement to support democratic governance in Tanzania.

Through the project, CSOs also improve their ability to engage effectively with the government and other key development actors to influence change with increased capabilities.

Conserve wildlife ecological system to reap more, expert urges Tanzanians

By Beatrice Philemon

TANZANIANS have been advised to conserve wildlife ecological systems and its corridors if they're to benefit from wildlife resources.

Hawa Mwechange, natural resource and climate change coordinator in the President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) made the advice over the weekend when speaking to members of CSOs from different regions who attended training on feminist principles and climate change.

The two-day training was organised by Women Action towards Economic Development (WATED). It brought together youth, private sector and experts from Ardhi University.

Hawa said that there are countless benefits from environment conservation including income generation, investment in carbon trade and introduction of beekeeping projects, tourist hunting, hunting and culture.

"Conserving wildlife ecology and corridors will also help people to establish wildlife management areas and form a community based organization (CBO) to manage wildlife resources in their village land, combat climate change and set up other environmentally friendly economic generating activities," she said.

This will help the government to implement various strategies that include national climate change strategy and meet a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

So far Tanzania has 61 wildlife corridors which are under PO-RALG and are in danger of disappearing.

"If you visit different areas, especially in protected areas, you can witness how the wildlife corridors have been destroyed while others are in a critical condition. That's why we need community intervention so that we can collaborate with the government to conserve wildlife ecology and wildlife corridors," she said.

According to her, conserving wildlife corridors will protect biodiversity, allow animals to freely move from one habitat patch to another as safely as possible for both them and their human neighbors.

Despite their importance, wildlife corridors are under threat from uncontrolled human activities and if wildlife corridors are lost they can never be fully restored.

"As Tanzanians let us collaborate

with the government to conserve this area because nearly all documented corridors in the country are either in a critical condition or have already been destroyed," she said.

The corridors have been destroyed for rapid agricultural expansion, unplanned land use, unmanaged natural resource extraction, increased bushmeat trade and other human activities.

"As PO-RALG we are now encouraging people to conserve the wildlife corridors and utilize business opportunities available there to set up environmentally friendly economic generating activities," she said.

The main goal is to ensure people's lives surrounding the corridors are benefiting and allow animals to freely move from one habitat patch to another as safely as possible both for them and their human neighbors.

By conserving wildlife, we're ensuring that future generations can enjoy our natural world and the incredible species that live within it.

Also there is a need to ensure all communities staying around the wildlife corridors are benefiting with resources available within their localities.

Elaborating on clean energy, she calls for the private sector to work in partnership with the government to support people to access clean cooking energy in accordance with their needs.

"We need the private sector intervention because women and children are affected by smoke especially in rural areas."

Also she calls for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) across the country to ensure all groups that include women, men, youth, people with disabilities and elders are included in the climate change issue.

"Women travel long distances to search for water for domestic use that puts them at risk of physical harm or harassment from their husbands, as a PO-RALG office, we want women to move from there and walk short distances," she said.

The government has come up with a new strategy aimed at sensitizing people to use clean cooking energy and "We are now inviting the private sector to create awareness to the community, in schools, government institutions, private companies and other health institutions to utilize clean energy.

The main goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, protect people and combat the effects of climate change.



Human resources manager of Vodacom Tanzania PLC, Naiman Moshi (right) presents a certificate to ICT Sarafina Sanga, a Form Four student at Samoja secondary school during a graduation ceremony held in Mbeya over the weekend under the programme dubbed 'Code Like a Girl,' in collaboration with Tanzania Data Lab (dLab). The initiative has successfully provided training for more than 1750 female students across the country. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Minister for Social Development, Elders, Gender, and Children) Riziki Pembe Juma said the government recognises that gender and equality are important aspects in ensuring the country achieves sustainable development.

She was speaking at the closure of the African women leaders and youth symposium held over the weekend at the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Leadership School in Kibaha, Coast Region. The event brought together participants from 16 countries.

'Zanzibar recognises gender, equality aspects to ensure country achieves sustainable development'

Juma said issues of gender and equality have been stated in both country documents—the 1977 Constitution of Tanzania and that of Zanzibar, 1984. She said the matters were highlighted in the constitution to ensure gender equality and women participation in decision making.

The country's national development vision—2025 has also highlighted the importance of gender and equality, added Juma, noting her ministry was

purposely established to ensure the welfare of women, elders as well as gender equality.

She said the government believes that education is an important weapon towards attaining sustainable development. She said efforts have been made to ensure women are well educated to contribute to the country's development.

She said the government has taken steps to make sure girls continue with their education

instead of being forced into early marriages. She called upon participants to use the skills and knowledge acquired to improve their performance and utilize the various opportunities that come across them.

The minister noted that girls and women should make sure the education they have helps them in getting better jobs, thus generating a good income.

The three days symposium was attended by over 100 people.



ACT Wazalendo national chairman Juma Duni Haji exchanges greetings with his deputy chairman who is Zanzibar First Vice President Othman Masoud Othman moments after arriving at the party's public rally held at Pangawe constituency in Unguja on Sunday. Photo: Guardian Photographer

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ACT-Wazalendo has warned that some local government leaders in Zanzibar (Shehas) will ruin peace and national unity for their discriminatory behaviour in the process of supporting citizens to access Zanzibar Residence Identity Cards (ZanIDs).

According to the party, there are some leaders who have been refusing to provide citizens with a supporting letter to enable them access ZanID, something which also thwarts the citizens from registering in the voter's book.

Speaking during a public rally held in Pangawe B constituency, the

ACT-Wazalendo warns Shehas

party's chairman in Zanzibar, Duni Haji said that there are unnecessary red tapes created by some Shehas thus preventing many Zanzibaris from possessing the cards.

Duni said that since the registration exercise in the permanent voter's book commenced, there are many people who have been stuck in registration as they don't have some documents including the ZanID which is important.

"Some of our Shehas are not treating our people well, they fail to understand that they are

committing great sin, one of the big problems in the country where we are going is the issue of citizenship. We will be fewer than foreigners, we will be tortured more than what is happening in Palestine. Discrimination issue in Zanzibar is a disaster," Duni said.

He wanted party's members to stand firm and demand for their right of getting ZanID in order to enable them participate effectively in various activities including the right to vote and be voted.

Nassor Ahmed Mazrui, deputy party leader said a number of

Zanzibaris are denied their right to vote and be voted due to the challenges that arise in the ongoing registration in the permanent voter's book.

Isamaal Jussa Ladhu, member of the party's National Executive Committee said privatisation of Malindi port operations have brought difficult situations to people which include the rise of inflation rate of various products.

Othman Masoud Othman, the Party's vice chairman claimed that the bureaucracy implemented by some leaders in the Isles was threatening big businesses with some traders shifting their investments.



Dr Stephen Mduma, the Principal of Santa Maria Institute of Health and Allied Sciences briefs journalists shortly after the third university's graduation ceremony held over the weekend in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Correspondent Mary Kadoke

'Government's plan to enroll more health workers is strategy on increasing productivity in the sector'

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

THE government's plan to enroll more health workers is a strategy to increase productivity in the sector. Saturini Manangwa, assistant director quality of nursing services Ministry of Health made the remarks over the weekend in Dar es Salaam as he officiated at the third graduation ceremony of Santa Maria Institute of Health and Allied Sciences (SMIHAS).

He said with the analysis made from the ministry, human resources enrollment agenda was given more consideration to ensure that it increases employment rate in the health sector.

"In this year's sectoral evaluation,

additional manpower in the health sector was a top concern among the tabled agenda. Hence a resolution of ensuring that enrolling more health workers such as pharmacists, nurses and midwives and laboratory technicians becomes a priority," he said. He added: "In cooperation with stakeholders we will look at ways on how to finance the employment aspect in regards to the government's initiative to ensure the medicines and medical equipment availability of which all developments will not be of use with an absence of competent health workers."

Dr Stephen Mduma, SMIHAS principal, urged the government support on religious universities

that do not focus on the commercial part rather target on producing technical tutors so that they can be in a position of attaining government grants just like what is done by religious organizations such as hospitals.

Razalous Mwakiposa, SMIHAS board representative, called upon graduates' humility and discipline as they serve the community based on what they are called for in their profession.

"I urge graduates' humility, love and discipline as they serve the community because their profession is a calling. At times a patient can speak unpleasant words. You should not be carried away with the anger basing on your

calling as what the patient needs at the moment is medication," he said.

He added: "Discipline should be guaranteed at all cost because as they demonstrate it they become good SMIHAS ambassadors."

Elizabeth Maige, pharmacy diploma graduate and one of the top performers in the department, said her great task as she prepares to serve the community is to raise awareness on cultivating a habit of taking medicine immediately after medical checkup.

SMIHAS offers two programmes for ordinary diploma in pharmaceutical sciences and clinical medicine cadres. This year's third graduation ceremony had 138 graduates.

Winner of Business Idea competition to be supported in registration startup

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THREE out of six student groups presented their business idea have been selected for the final stage of which the winner will be supported in registration of the startup.

Speaking at the Business Idea Competition event held at the University of Dar es Salaam, Coordinator, Entrepreneurship, Directorate of Innovation and Entrepreneurship Dr Winnie Nguni said that the three selected groups will undergo classroom sessions before the competition.

She said the Directorate for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (DIEN) of the University of Dar es Salaam in collaboration with JICA organized the competition with the aim of equipping students with essential knowledge, skills, tools and techniques on innovation and entrepreneurship.

Others were to introduce participants to the principles of innovation and entrepreneurship, to enable the participants to develop business models, develop potential commercializable products as well as introduce participants to the aspects of intellectual property.

Coordinator named the groups as Blue Smile, Timu Golan and Halo Sustain from the University of Dar es Salaam

He said that in the final reporting session, three groups will present business plans to the stakeholders such as government, investors, incubators and accelerators.

Coordinator said only one selected student group could

receive Proof of Concept (PoC) activity implementation in the future by JICA after registration of the startup by the student group itself.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Chief Representative ARA Hitoshi said that youth leveraging innovation is essential for solving various social challenges and contributing to the sustainable development goals (SDGs) in Tanzania.

Hitoshi said students are required to develop their ability to effectively solve social problems and launch startups.

"We are impressed by the way students presented their business plan. It is really encouraging. You have to think about what are challenges, how you can contribute to solving the challenges. It is time to think about how to make it," he said.

He said the students must further think about how to contribute to sustainable development.

"I'm very glad, JICA and UDSM can provide this kind of opportunities and you can continue," he added.

Ivon Emanuel, a third year student said that the competition was an opportunity for them to use their idea to transform the country.

"During training and classrooms sessions, we have learned a lot from our mentors that indeed we have accumulated a huge knowledge in future," she said

She thanked UDSM and JICA for organizing such an event that was a good platform for them to require knowledge from different experts.

Africa gets shot in the arm as African Pharmaceutical Technology Foundation gets underway

By Special Correspondent

AFRICA'S efforts to build a resilient and self-reliant pharmaceutical industry for the continent advanced significantly today as the African Pharmaceutical Technology Foundation and the Rwandan Government signed the host country agreement paving the way for the Foundation's operationalisation.

The Foundation also signed a memorandum of understanding with the European Investment Bank to further strengthen cooperation.

The African Development Bank Group's Board of Directors approved the setting up of the African Pharmaceutical Technology Foundation as an independent body in June 2022.

The Foundation's work—which has significant technical and financial support globally and within Africa—will be central to Africa's pharmaceutical sector. It is the first of its kind to foster collaboration between the public and private sectors in Africa, North America, Europe and the rest of the developing world.

The Rwandan government has played a pivotal role in anchoring the Foundation and granting it the status of an international agency. At the host country agreement signing ceremony in Kigali, Rwanda's Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Dr Vincent Biruta, said it was important to close the vaccine equity gap between African countries and the world's developed nations.

"To close the gap, we must continue investing in pharmaceutical production in Africa and other developing countries," Biruta said. He added: "Technology and knowledge transfer are central. The new African Pharmaceutical Technology Foundation will help Africa gain rapid access to the latest pharmaceutical breakthroughs."

Biruta signed the host country agreement for the Rwandan government, while Professor Padmashree Gehl Sampath, interim Chief Executive Officer of the African Pharmaceutical Technology Foundation, signed for the Foundation.

African Development Bank Group President Dr Akinwumi Adesina said the establishment of the Foundation was a pledge that Africa will have what it needs to build its own health defence system, which must include a thriving African pharmaceutical industry, and a quality healthcare

infrastructure.

"Technology is the main transformative tool that will enable the development of a competitive pharmaceutical industry that Africa will need to secure the health and wellbeing of all her people," Adesina stressed. He added: "The African Development Bank is committed to investing up to \$3 billion over the next decade in the development of the pharmaceutical industry as part of our efforts to industrialise Africa and lessen the continent's reliance on imports."

Gehl Sampath, said: "Building Bank Group's pharmaceutical sector to serve the continent is an idea whose time has come. The African Pharmaceutical Technology Foundation has a clear agenda and vision and is ready to hit the ground running in January 2024. It is important that we now increase the maturity of Africa's pharmaceutical industry by supporting the development of local production and innovation capabilities. This will require strong partnerships between local and international pharmaceutical companies and research institutions."

Germany has been a great supporter of the African Pharmaceutical Technology Foundation, in keeping with its strong commitment to local production in the region. Dr Bärbel Kofler, Parliamentary State Secretary in Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and African Development Bank Group Governor, said: "For Germany it is a great privilege to serve on the Board of Directors of this important institution. My government is committed to supporting the African Pharmaceutical Technology Foundation through a strong partnership based on shared values and aspirations for a healthier and safer Africa."

Global partners—including the World Health Organization and the World Trade Organization—have applauded the creation of the Foundation. World Health Organization Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said: "The World Health Organization is proud to support the African Pharmaceutical Technology Foundation and its mission to increase access to safe and effective medicines for Africa. Health is not a privilege. It's a human right, which is integral to development and sustainability."



Songwe Regional Police Commander ACP Theopista Mallya speaks with Hangomba villagers in Mbozi District to overcome superstitions and irrational beliefs. Photo: Correspondent Issa Mwadangala

Govt builds Kisorya-Rugezi bridge in the Lake Victoria

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda,

Mwanza

THE government is constructing a bridge in Lake Victoria connecting Kisorya in Bunda District, Mara Region and Ukerewe District, Mwanza Region in efforts to improve transport between the two sections.

Mwanza Regional Commissioner (RC), Amos Makalla unveiled this recently when wrapping up the region's road board meeting.

He said that the government wants people of Ukerewe Island and Bunda as well as others from different areas to cross the area all

the time and not only at day time. "Until now suggestions for construction of the bridge have been submitted with a view to ease transport between the two points", said.

He noted that currently people mostly necessitate travelling during day time by ferry or boats to cross between the areas separated by Lake Victoria.

RC pointed out that the presence of the bridge will help to speed up socio-economic development between Bunda and Ukerewe that is the largest island in Lake Victoria, also largest Inland in Africa.

He said that the aim of the

government is to strengthen transport infrastructure in different areas even by means of water to promote development of people and boost the economy.

Speaking to the Guardian the scores of the people have said that improvement of transport infrastructure between Bunda and Ukerewe will largely contribute to stimulate economic activities in the areas.

Mafuru Masatu noted that with the bridge people can easily transport fruits especially oranges and fish that are abundant in Ukerewe to various areas and make businesses.

Also the bridge can significantly

help to boost tourism on the island that is endowed with a lot of tourist attractions, he said.

He said that Ukerewe has historical sites and a famous dancing stone that are enough attractions for tourism to mention just a few examples that can earn the nation revenues and income to local people.

Ukerewe can also be reached from Mwanza city by boats owned by the state under Marine Services Company Limited (MSCL) and private operators as well as a state-owned ferry operating between Kayenze on the outskirts of the city and Ukerewe via Bezi Island.

Waste use for energy or recycling needs easier collection regulations

REMARKS by environmental activists lately that there is need for increased efforts in building capacity, along with awareness on the importance of reducing environmental pollution through recycling plastic waste bottles has a surprising element in them. The reason is that recycling as such, or the technical ability to make use of solid wastes creatively and profitably, has been around for more than three decades. It is like raising awareness over biomass sourcing of energy, or making cheap briquettes from coal dust and other combustible wastes, as all this knowledge is commonplace but those who hold the keys have other plans.

An operative in the recycling industry was examining the state of recycling on the sidelines of an environmentalists' December Festival 2023, laying stress on collective efforts to protect the environment through recycling plastic. Building knowledge on recycling and encouraging innovative ways of repurposing the use of plastic bottles was similarly aired. Unless there is something new in that area, industrial recycling of plastic bottles is plentiful in the city, but definitely there are other purposes to which it could be put. Furniture is one of these areas.

Yet the big issue at the moment isn't knowledge of recycling or even what to do with plastic bottles but solid waste, as collection is getting stickier by the day, and those with regulatory and policy design functions aren't thinking of energy generation from solid waste. By reclaiming a single ramshackle house in a poor area, a modest investor can generate cooking gas for hundreds of households in the vicinity, enabling women to skip the charcoal headache. But they are

solidly united behind the gas shift drive - which is relatively clean, but is fossil fuel too.

The focus on changing people's attitudes or perceptions towards plastic waste bottles was either an auxiliary topic or addressed to beginners on the issue, as it falls in what they say is 'taking coal to Newcastle,' or locally to Mchuchuma. They know all that, so the issue is less what youths know or recycling but real opportunities from recycling, and even more so, from using solid wastes for instance to eliminate the need for chocking charcoal use in households. As the festival and seminar were organised by private sector stakeholders, it is possible they addressed issues from the viewpoint of what they can do at the moment.

In that case the key stakeholders organising an event need to organise yet another, and hopefully with a more active participation of the relevant ministry, why private firms can't purchase dwellings in densely populated and thus poor households, dig up sizeable biomass facilities, if it is from solid waste on used material or from fecal waste depending on positioning. Is it not likely that administering waste is 'solid' local government business needing no innovation?

The whole issue of collection is vital because creating a monopoly on that aspect makes it impossible for investors to use the waste generated in a particular environment within the locality, which is especially the case for biomass units. The lower the costs involved in setting up such a facility the lower the prices that will be charged on the neighbourhood, and going green means that biomass energy source have 'net zero' advantage over charcoal, say costing a third of its price. With incentives in collecting the waste plenty can be done by investors.

To benefit from genebank technology, widen land accessing for horticulture

ONE thing about the country's vegetable subsector is that it is concentrated in the Arusha and Meru portions, the slopes of Mount Meru in particular. How far this kind of farming is applicable or can be replicated elsewhere is as yet in the stage of experiment, a farm retention of expansion in this particular area has been uncertain. There was a time investors' farms were slashed or burned by nearby villagers, wishing to use the land as traditional expansion area for clan land. It is possible they plant the same vegetables, as investors would just quit.

With this scenario in mind it is helpful to figure out the prospects of extensive improvement in farming or specifically the vegetable and fruit subsector, in the wake of impressive developments at the technological front. Chroniclers say there are signs of impressive developments on account of a plan by the World Vegetable Centre (WVC) to launch a continental genebank centre in the northern tourist city in the neighbourhood of thriving horticulture farming areas, likely to be held early March. It is expected to focus on vegetables and spices.

The project managers visiting the site late last week affirmed that the genebank will feature multiple facilities, able to receiving and process seeds, drying seeds, as well as a tailor-made seed laboratory. It is unclear how this is likely to blend with local research but impressions are that local institutions are focused on the key traditional cash crops, such that gene banks may be an academic curiosity of sorts, but hardly parastatal business at the moment. So it's a new, solid

initiative.

In these days of the African Continental Free Trade Areas (AfCFTA), it is possible such a facility can be located there for more than one purpose. One is that it is a unit with local relevance and secondly it has centre for regional farm technology expansion. The localized enthusiasm is relevant, with a pinch of salt.

As a matter of fact, horticulture has expanding markets and plenty of overseas support for logistics, or at present, the localisation of technology, and all the time there is talk of inviting investors. With current land use structures likely to remain in place over the next decade and counting, the chances are that local farming will gradually modernize as those retiring or shifting savings from a congested urban trading environment to farming are likely to modernize. They face fewer threats from local people nearby as they buy land directly from them.

A local team leader made precisely this admission in his remarks on how the project was designed or thought up, that he was asked to lead a genebank centre in the northern tourist capital, back in 2020. The project movers had noticed that there was no major project catering for many countries in Africa, thus he prepared a proposal for a major project which will at least be executed in some countries across Africa. How far it will be effective here depends on the slow penetration of capital in horticulture, but with a thriving minerals sector on its outskirts, directing profits or savings to horticulture, aside from real estate, is a possibility. Minerals cash, retirees' funds are likely to boost farming innovation.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

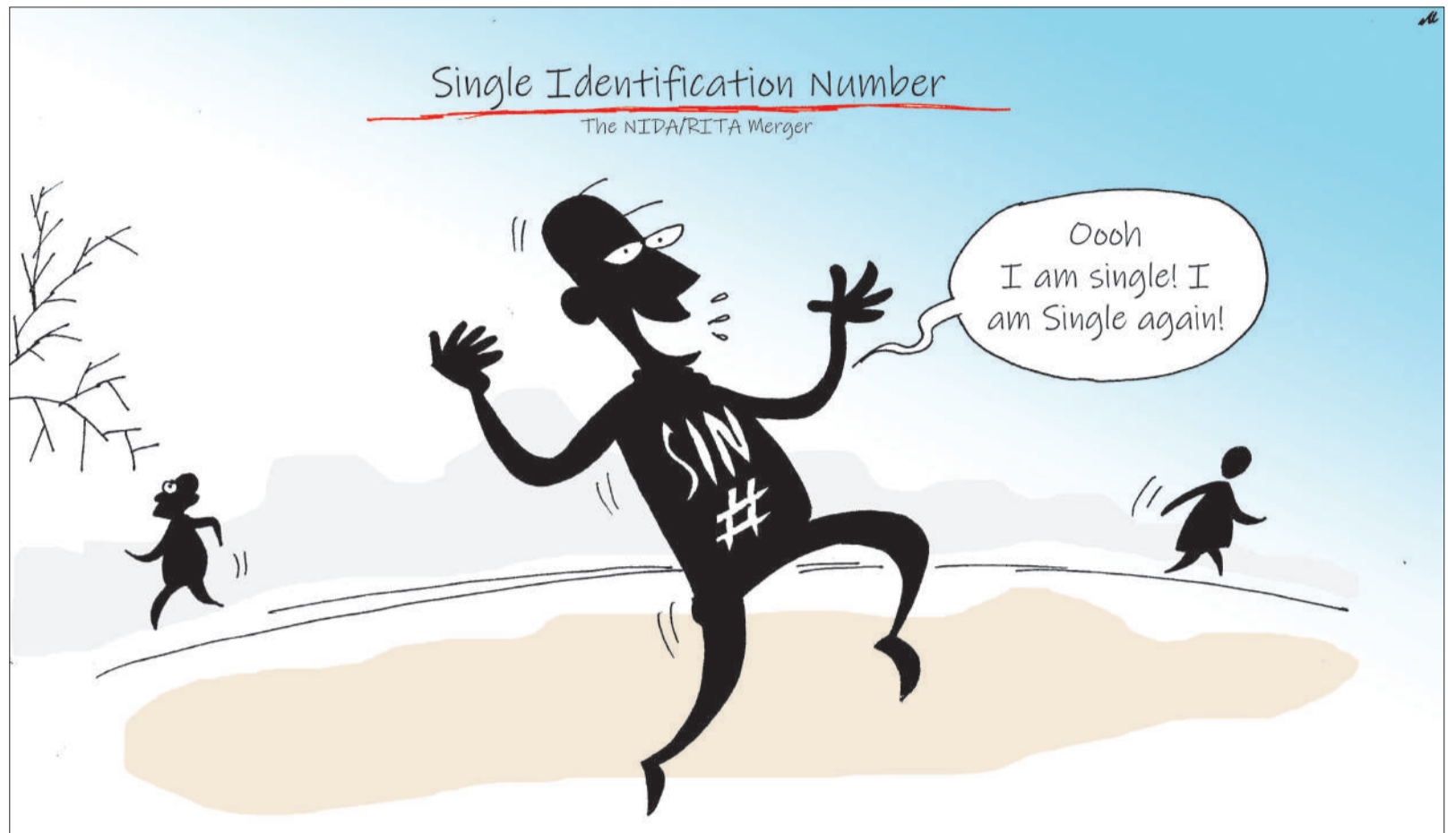
Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: DENNIS NTAITA

Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757154767
General line: 0745700710
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Mobile: 0677020701
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com



Migration: What the EU can learn from Africa

By Felicity Okoth

POPULAR migration discourses in Europe often question the ability of African states to govern migration effectively. Media images of African migrants squeezed into dingy boats in the Mediterranean constantly reinforce these discourses.

However, positive examples of what migration governance should be now exist within the continent, and they can provide important lessons for many of the EU Member States. One such example is the National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCM) adopted by countries in the East and Horn of Africa.

NCMs are government-led interagency platforms that bring together different ministries to promote dialogue on migration issues and formulate holistic migration policies. They have realised coherent and inclusive migration governance in the region, and more states in other parts of Africa are now adopting this approach.

The African continent boasts of diverse migration experiences, including but not limited to regular cross-border trade, labour migration, forced migration, seasonal migration and migration for educational purposes. These happen at the domestic, regional and international levels and can be documented or undocumented.

Currently, 85 per cent of mobility occurs within the continent, as most African migrants - including refugees - prefer moving to neighbouring countries.

Ensuring coherent and inclusive migration governance

Against this backdrop, African Union (AU) Heads of State adopted the African Migration Policy Framework in 2006. Its current version is the Migration Policy Framework for Africa and Plan for Action (2018-2030).

The framework provides comprehensive and integrated policy guidelines to AU Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in their endeavours to promote migration and development. It further provides a guideline on how to address migration challenges on the continent.

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), a REC in the Horn of Africa comprising eight members (Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan and Uganda), decided to establish NCMs to implement the African



Union's framework.

The REC also has a Regional Migration Policy Framework guided by the AU's policy framework, and NCMs are also part of this implementation.

NCMs, as stated earlier, are platforms that foster dialogue on migration-related issues to realise coherent and inclusive migration governance. For instance, Kenya's NCM, spearheaded by the Ministry of Interior and National Administration, includes the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, the Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Youth Affairs, Sports and the Arts, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and, last but not least, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

Government agencies like the National Bureau of Statistics and the National Employment Authority are also involved. The NCM also holds consultative workshops with academia, civil society, trade unions, the private sector, church, as well as faith-based organisations, including county assemblies at local governance levels.

More broadly, NCMs in the IGAD region endeavour to mainstream migration into national development through a whole-of-society and government approach. They mobilise resources, offer technical support and directly participate in implementing migration programmes rolled out by different government ministries.

As such, it makes it possible for various ministries to know what the others are doing, avoiding duplication of activities and save limited resources.

Lessons for Europe

It is thus fair to say that European Union Member States have something to learn from IGAD Member States. In most EU countries, the migration docket

currently falls solely within the Ministries of Interior or Home Affairs. These ministries often work in silos and formulate migration policies without fully involving other relevant ministries.

As a result, migration policies and overall migration governance take off from a security standpoint first and foremost. Consequently, migration is viewed and governed as a threat to the nation-state.

On the contrary, numerous peer-reviewed studies and reports show that migrants contribute to their destination countries' economic and social development. The EU and its Member States continuously disregard this fact and put more funds into externalisation than into opening regular migration pathways.

The union has set aside millions of euros to outsource migration management to countries outside Europe to prevent migration into its territory. This strategy has, however, not been successful, as evidenced by hardline stands, pushbacks by African border states and the abuse of migrants' human rights within these states.

The number of migrants that reached Italy's shores in the summer of 2023, for example, was at a record high compared to previous years. It is, therefore, imperative for the EU to look at migration differently and develop new approaches to manage it effectively.

Bringing together all migration stakeholders through one platform is a daunting task -- but not an impossible one. IGAD Member States have proven that it is an achievable endeavour. Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and Djibouti, considered to be on a development trajectory, have had more progress in the implementation of NCMs and provide lessons that could be a starting point for countries in the EU.

NCMs, as highlighted, offer a platform to critically address specific migration issues and challenges and share diverse ways to manage migration in a coordinated manner. NCMs also allow the sharing of migration data across different ministries and agencies to inform policies coherently.

For instance, Kenya's NCM has developed and validated Standard Operating Procedures on migration data management by all NCM stakeholders. Different government ministries have also signed a Memorandum of Understanding on data sharing, exchange and dissemination.

These initiatives have facilitated informed dialogue on migration issues within the NCM and further resulted in inclusive migration policies. If accompanied by political goodwill, a similar undertaking can achieve maximum results within EU Member States.

The EU Member States have proven that they are able to make great strides, such as with the General Data Protection Regulation, and they have the financial and technical capabilities to implement such a platform.

But with the migration narrative currently being run by far-right politicians, the time to act is now!

Felicity Okoth coordinates the International Migration and Ethnic Relations (IMER) research network in Bergen, Norway. She is also pursuing a PhD at the department of Social Anthropology at the University of Bergen. Her research looks at the situated and trans-local practices of Sub-Saharan African migrants in Nairobi and how these influence their migration aspirations (return or move to third countries). Source: International Politics and Society (IPS)-Journal published by the International Political Analysis Unit of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Hiroshimastrasse 28, D-10785 Berlin

Pope Francis deplores the death of two women in Gaza parish

POPE Francis (pictured) on Sunday deplored the death of two women in a Catholic parish in Gaza, where he said “unarmed civilians” were being targeted by shootings and bombings.

He was speaking a day after the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem said a Christian mother and daughter had been shot dead by an Israeli soldier on the grounds of the Gaza Strip’s only Catholic church.

“I continue receiving very serious and sad news about Gaza,” the pope said at the end of the Angelus prayer. “A mother and her daughter... were killed and other people were wounded by the shooters.

“This has happened even within the parish complex of the Holy Family, where there are no terrorists, but families, children, people who are sick and have disabilities,” the pope added.

The Israeli army told AFP that it had on Saturday been contacted by church representatives about an incident in the Holy Family Parish, but said that “no reports of a hit on the church, nor civilians being injured or killed, were raised.

“A review of the IDF’s operational findings support this,” it added.

Israel’s army said it “does not target civilians, no matter their religion.

“The IDF takes claims regarding harm to sensitive sites with the utmost seriousness – especially churches – considering that Christian communities are a minority group in the Middle East,” it added.

Saturday’s statement from the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem said: “Around noon (1000 GMT) today... a sniper of the IDF (Israeli army) murdered two Christian women inside the Holy Family Parish in Gaza”.

Christian families have been sheltering there since the Israel-Hamas war broke out, the patriarchate said.

“Nahida and her daughter Samar were shot and killed as they walked to the Sister’s Convent. One was killed as she tried to carry the other to safety,” it added.

- ‘Shot in cold blood’ -

Seven more people were wounded by gunfire as they tried to protect others, the statement said.

“Some are saying ‘this is terrorism and war,’” the pontiff said. “Yes, it is war, it is terrorism... let us pray to the Lord for peace,” he added.

According to the Vatican press agency, citing Pierbatista Pizzaballa, the Latin patriarch of Jerusalem, the victims were an elderly woman and her daughter.

The patriarchate said no warning had been given before the shooting started, adding that they were “shot in cold blood”.

The Gaza strip has been hard hit by bombardments and ground operations carried out by the Israeli army



since the unprecedented October 7 attack by Hamas on Israeli territory. The attack saw about 1,139 people

killed, mostly civilians, and 250 hostages taken, according to the Israeli authorities’ latest figures.

Aiming to eliminate Hamas, Israel has carried out a relentless bombardment of Gaza, alongside a ground invasion,

that has killed more than 18,800 people, mostly women and children, according to the territory’s Hamas government.

Israel strikes Gaza amid calls for release of more hostages



By Special Correspondent

ISRAEL carried out fresh strikes on Gaza yesterday as its leaders came under growing pressure to secure the release of hostages still held in the Hamas-run territory more than two months after the October 7 attacks.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu faced protests on Saturday by relatives of hostages who called for an urgent deal to secure their freedom after the army admitted mistakenly killing three captives in Gaza.

according to the Israeli authorities’ latest figures.

According to Hamas, Israel’s retaliatory offensive in Gaza has killed 18,800 people, mostly women and children.

At a protest in Tel Aviv on Saturday, relatives of hostages gathered to plea with the government for a deal.

“Take us into consideration and come up with a plan now (for negotiation),” said Noam Perry, daughter of hostage Haim Perry, at the protest.

More than 100 of the Israelis and foreigners seized by Hamas and other militants on October 7 were released in exchange for 240 Palestinian prisoners during a week-long

truce last month, mediated by Qatar.

Netanyahu doubled down on his war effort on Saturday, telling reporters of the three hostages’ deaths: “It broke my heart. It broke the whole nation’s heart.”

“With all the deep sorrow, I want to clarify: the military pressure is necessary both for the return of the kidnapped and for achieving victory over our enemies,” he added.

Yesterday, according to the Hamas-run health ministry in Gaza, at least 12 people were killed in Israeli strikes on the central city of Deir al-Balah.

Witnesses also reported Israeli air and artillery strikes on the southern municipality of Bani Suhaila east of Khan Yunis, the Gaza Strip’s second

city. Also on Saturday, Netanyahu appeared to address Qatari efforts towards a new truce.

“We have serious criticisms of Qatar, about which I suppose you will hear in due course, but right now we are trying to complete the recovery of our hostages,” he said.

In a statement, Qatar reaffirmed on Saturday its “ongoing diplomatic efforts to renew the humanitarian pause”.

But Hamas said on Telegram it was “against any negotiations for the exchange of prisoners until the aggression against our people ceases completely”.

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said late Saturday he was travelling to Israel, Bahrain and Qatar to

highlight Washington’s “commitments to strengthening regional security and stability”.

News platform Axios said Israeli spy chief David Barnea met Friday in an unspecified European location with Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, who helped negotiate the earlier truce.

Israel’s bombardment of Gaza has left much of the territory in ruins, with the UN estimating 1.9 million Gazans have been displaced by the war.

The UN said this week that hunger and desperation were driving people to seize humanitarian aid being delivered to Gaza, warning of a “breakdown of civil order”.

International aid organisations have struggled to get supplies to desperate Gazans.

“I would not be surprised if people start dying of hunger, or a combination of hunger, disease, weak immunity,” said Philippe Lazzarini, the head of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees.

The agency reported a “prolonged communications blackout” across Gaza that started on Thursday night and has continued over the past 48 hours.

US President Joe Biden, whose administration provides billions of dollars in military aid to Israel, has voiced growing concern over civilian deaths.

UK Foreign Minister David Cameron and his German counterpart Annalena Baerbock wrote in The Sunday Times that the “need is urgent” for a “sustainable ceasefire” in Gaza.

In the face of mounting international pressure, Israel announced a “temporary measure” to allow aid deliveries directly to Gaza through the Kerem Shalom border crossing.

Fierce fighting raged in Gaza on Saturday, with the Israeli army saying it had raided two schools which it said were Hamas hiding places in the northern Gaza City.

The Latin Patriarchate of Jeru-

salem said a Christian mother and daughter were shot dead by an Israeli soldier on the grounds of the Gaza Strip’s only Catholic church.

“Nahida and her daughter Samar were shot and killed as they walked to the Sister’s Convent. One was killed as she tried to carry the other to safety,” the patriarchate said in a statement.

In the city of Khan Yunis, dozens of journalists took part in a funeral for Al Jazeera cameraman Samer Abu Daqqa, who was killed in an Israeli strike, according to his news organisation.

More than 60 journalists and media staff have died since the war began, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists.

The war continues to be felt across the Middle East and has raised fears of a broader conflict.

Israel has exchanged regular fire with militants, mainly the powerful Iran-backed Hezbollah, across its northern border with Lebanon.

The Israeli army said on Saturday a soldier was killed and two others wounded in the Margalioth area on the Lebanese boundary. A spokesperson confirmed to AFP the casualties were caused by a “hostile aircraft”.

The conflict has also caused major disruption to the key Red Sea shipping lane between Asia and Europe, with two more major firms announcing they were redirecting their vessels following repeated attacks by Yemeni rebels allied with Hamas.

The action by Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) and CMA CGM follows similar moves on Friday by Maersk and Hapag-Lloyd.

It comes after Yemen’s Iran-backed Huthi rebels launched repeated attacks on passing vessels in recent days.

The rebels also launched a wave of 14 one-way attack drones on Saturday, all of which were “shot down with no damage to ships in the area or reported injuries”, the US military’s Central Command said.

SBL programme empowers youth for sustainable future



SBL executive director Obinna Anyalebechi presents a certificate to Annastazia Koko who is one of the beneficiaries of the agricultural industry scholarship programme from the Iringa-based St. Maria Goretti's agricultural college. Others are SBL public relations director (R), John Wanyancha and the college principal, Isaya Kigava. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIA is a home to a thriving agricultural sector that plays a pivotal role in the country's social economic development. Agriculture is also termed as the backbone of the nation's economy due to its crucial role in development. In recent years, a significant shift has been observed in this sector, with the youth emerging as a dynamic force for change. Through education, training, and opportunities provided by programmes like the Kilimo Viwanda Programme by Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL). The programme revolutionises the agricultural sector as it entices youth to explore its potentials. Agriculture is deeply rooted in the Tanzanian way of life, providing livelihoods to the majority of the population. The sector contributes

significantly to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), with statistics showing that agriculture accounts for about 30 per cent of the nation's GDP. Moreover, it employs approximately 70 percent of the working population, illustrating its significance in providing employment and income to millions of Tanzanians. Tanzania's agricultural landscape is diverse, featuring various crops, livestock, and agribusiness opportunities. It is renowned for producing staple crops like maize, rice, and cassava, along with cash crops such as coffee, tea, and cotton. The country's vast natural resources and favorable climate have led to the cultivation of a wide range of crops and the rearing of livestock, making it a potential agricultural powerhouse on the continent. In recent years, Tanzania has wit-

nessed a significant shift in the demographics of its agricultural sector, with young people actively participating. The youth have taken up the challenge to modernize and diversify agriculture, introducing innovative practices and technologies, and embracing agribusiness as a viable career choice. According to statistics from the Tanzanian government, nearly 70 per cent of the country's population is under the age of 30. This demographic presents a unique opportunity for the agricultural sector to rejuvenate itself, as young people bring fresh perspectives and a willingness to embrace change. However, for this potential to be fully harnessed, it's essential that these young farmers are well-trained, equipped, and motivated. Access to quality education and training is pivotal in shaping the fu-

ture of Tanzania's agricultural sector. The government, in collaboration with various stakeholders, has been working diligently to provide opportunities for youth to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge in agriculture. This includes programmes that focus on both theoretical and practical aspects of farming, encouraging young individuals to consider agriculture as a viable and profitable career choice. One remarkable programme that has been instrumental in promoting agricultural education among Tanzanian youth is the Kilimo Viwanda Program by Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL). This initiative aims to support underprivileged students pursuing agricultural-related courses and has been running successfully for four years. The program has sponsored over 200 students, helping to create a pool of knowledgeable profession-

als in the agricultural sector. Neema Temba, SBL government relations manager, expresses the company's dedication to education, sustainability, and the growth of Tanzania's agricultural sector. She notes that "For the fourth consecutive year, SBL has sponsored a new group of students, with a strong focus on those from farming families, through the Kilimo Viwanda Scholarship Programme." Neema explains: "This initiative reflects SBL's commitment to education, sustainability, and the growth of Tanzania's agricultural sector." According to her, the Kilimo Viwanda Programme aligns seamlessly with SBL's commitment to eco-friendly practices within the supply chain. The students who benefit from this initiative are expected to become champions of sustainable agricultural methods. This is a crucial aspect of modernizing Tanzania's agricultural sector, as it positively influences sourcing and production processes. As young people gain the skills and knowledge necessary to implement sustainable practices, they can make a significant impact on reducing the environmental footprint of agriculture. Their fresh perspectives and innovative ideas are vital in enhancing efficiency and streamlining agricultural and supply chain operations. The youth in Tanzania's agricultural sector represent the promise of a brighter and more sustainable future. With proper training, education, and support, these young farmers have the potential to revolutionize agriculture, increase yields, reduce post-harvest losses, and contribute to food security in the nation. The Kilimo Viwanda Programme by Serengeti Breweries Limited serves as an example of how private sector involvement can make a profound impact on youth development in agriculture. The programme is not merely a philanthropic endeavor but a strategic investment that strengthens the agricultural supply chain, fosters innovation, and significantly contributes to the growth of the Tanzanian economy. As Tanzania moves forward, the youth will be at the forefront of the agricultural renaissance, bringing with them fresh ideas, sustainable practices, and the dedication needed to elevate the sector to new heights. The partnership between the public and private sectors, along with the efforts of initiatives like the Kilimo Viwanda Program, is pivotal in ensuring that Tanzania's agricultural legacy remains strong and prosperous for generations to come.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMJUVAYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI 09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Promoting security of land tenure to ensure food security: Is a matter of choice and not chance



With secure land tenure women can contribute significantly to food security at family level.

By Correspondent Deodatus Mfugale,

Morogoro

TANZANIA has vast areas of land that is suitable for agriculture and that could subsequently address the food security challenge.

According to The Global Yield Atlas Tanzania has a total area of 94.5 million hectares of land, of which 44 million hectares are classified as suitable for agriculture. Out of the available arable land only 10.1 million hectares or 23 percent of is currently under cultivation.

Agriculture in Tanzania is dominated by smallholder farmers cultivating average farm sizes between 0.9 hectares and 3.0 hectares with women representing the majority of the agricultural labour force. However besides poor production technology and dependence on unreliable and irregular weather conditions, limited access to land ownership rights and insecure tenure have hampered agricultural production.

Due to insecurity to land tenure rights communities have not been able to maximize the economic potential of their land let alone develop it for social gain and as an instrument to counter impacts of climate change and other natural hazards. This in turn has led to food insecurity especially at individual and family level.

Land is the most important resource for an individual and for the country in general and the Tanzania government strives to ensure that land ownership and secure tenure are attained within the realm of existing policy, laws, rules and regulations. "We acknowledge that land ownership and secure tenure are important in attaining food security at individual, family and national level. To this end the government is expediting land allocation and requisite documentation and re-

viewing the land policy to ensure it responds to current conditions and needs of land users. When the review is complete, it will lead to protection of land rights and secure tenure as well as improve the investment environment," said Godfrey Pinda, Deputy Minister of Land, Housing and Human Settlements Development.

He was speaking at the National Land Stakeholders Forum held in Morogoro recently, which focused on secure land tenure and food security. The forum was organized by Tanzania Land Alliance (TALA) and drew representatives from government, NGOs, private sector, rural communities, academia and other land users.

Pinda warned that while the size of land has remained the same over the years, Tanzania's population is increasing and subsequently the number of people who directly depend on land for their livelihoods. "It is imperative that the government should be in the front line to protect ownership and secure tenure for both individuals and communities," said Pinda. Working with various partners, the government has issued Customary Certificates of Right of Occupancy (CCROs) to individuals, villages and communities in various parts of the country. However there is a need to raise ambition considering that 12 million CCROs are needed for villages, let alone for individuals and communities.

In communities where CCROs have been issued, there is a significant reduction of conflicts. The ongoing task now is to build the capacity of community members to use their land for economic gain and attain sustainable food security.

In Tanzania, the principal legislation with regard to land tenure and land management is the Land Act 1999 (as amended in 2004) and the Village Land Act. The two legislations define the types of legal land

tenure in the country and also empower the Commissioner for Lands and Village Councils to manage general land and village land respectively. The laws have put in place a good system of protecting the rights of all citizens to own land. However, in rural areas the right lacks security because the land is not legally formalized. Most of the land in villages is not surveyed or planned and neither does it have CCROs, a situation which makes such owners reluctant to develop the land and make it more productive to address food security for fear that their tenure could be interrupted or even terminated.

Clear and secure tenure rights reduce the potential for conflict and the threat of eviction. They are also incentives to conserve and improve land and encourage land-related investments that may increase productivity of food and other crops and in due course make the owners food secure.

For this reason discussions on food security must dwell first on land ownership and secure tenure because these are the foundations of food production for an individual, a community and a country.

Where tenure is weak, land-based conflicts abound and there is a significant reduction in production. Stakeholders must look into ways that may strengthen security of tenure, which may include review of land policy and related legislation. These must respond to current demands for ownership and improve tenure security with a view to attain food security.

"Food security is hinged on land ownership and tenure that is free from interruption, eviction or termination. Tenure must be free from uncertainties. It is important that there is frequent review of the land policy and related legislation to make sure that that it protects interests of land owners as a means to food security," said Bernard Baha,

Coordinator of TALA, at the recent stakeholders' forum held in Morogoro.

"We must reduce the implementation gap; what is in the policy must be reflected in what is happening on the ground especially in protecting land rights, security of tenure and improving food security," he added.

Baha urged TALA members to scale up cooperation with the government in documenting land ownership as this will enhance tenure security and lead to food security. "We are not doing enough in establishing land use plans for communities and individuals. We need to increase access to ownership and through appropriate documentation, we should ensure security of tenure for those who own land. The current pace does not meet demand," he said.

Talk about food security in the broad sense, there must be adequate agricultural technical support services and conservation of the environment in order to avert land degradation. Land must remain productive. Yet there can be no investment in modern technology driven agriculture where there is no security of land tenure.

"Secure tenure is the basis of achieving the goal of transitioning to sustainable food security," says James OMODING-OPIO, AfDB Chief Agricultural Economist.

Its publication titled Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) says that tenure systems play an important role in eradicating poverty and ensuring food security.

Security of land tenure and good governance remain major challenges in Tanzania and many other African countries where land tenure laws are weak and poorly enforced. Land conflicts, inadequate titling of

agricultural land and general insecurity of agricultural land among others, also account for the decline in agricultural production.

"Insecurity of land tenure and other factors have led to the decline in productive capacity of agricultural land. The issues must be addressed accordingly if the country is to succeed in the agricultural transformation drive towards food security," says Prof. Kironde Lussoga in a report on a Review of Land Tenure Systems in Tanzania to Support the Creation of an Enabling Environment for Agricultural Transformation.

In promoting land rights and secure tenure, the issue of gender equality must take centre stage since women often have fewer and weaker tenure rights of land. Presenting a paper on Women's Land Rights in the Context of Climate Change Adaptation and Food Security at the TALA forum, Khadija Mrisho said that lack of secure land tenure is a drawback to attaining sustainable development goals as "Climate smart agriculture which makes farmers resilient to impacts and can attract long term investments cannot be undertaken where tenure is uncertain."

Women who have secure land tenure are better placed to develop their land and make it more productive while adapting to climate change. Protecting the environment by planting trees may sustain soil fertility and conserve water in the farms. One can also plant drought resistant crops or crops that may resist other climate change impacts. At the end of the day this may lead to food security at family level. "But a woman will only undertake these activities if she has secure land tenure; if she is not worried about land conflicts or if she is not threatened by eviction," said Ms. Mrisho who leads the Stand for Her Land (S4HL) campaign in Tanzania which is implemented by Landesa and part-

ners. The campaign seeks to, among other things, enable women to own land and achieve security of tenure. With secure tenure women can develop land, make it more productive and fend off impacts of climate change thus ensuring food security for families and the country in general. Those who work on land that they don't own or lack secure tenure usually do not devote their energy and time to keep the land fertile and productive for fear that they might lose it. On the other hand, women who own land and have secure tenure are economically stronger than their counterparts and have a voice in the community. "Land ownership and secure tenure for women are the foundations of food security and can in the long term contribute to strong and sustainable food systems," says Ms. Mrisho.

In one of its publications, the World Bank says that an important part of gender equality is ensuring women's equal access to own land and such ownership must be secure. "Strengthening women's land tenure security improves their rights and their dignity. Importantly, improving women's access to and control over resources also has a positive effect on a range of development goals, including poverty reduction, economic growth and food security," reads part of the publication.

Perhaps an interesting issue that emerged during the TALA forum was that of land returns as a means of increasing access to land ownership and ensuring tenure security. In his speech, the Deputy Minister for Land, Housing and Settlements Development Godfrey Pinda said that the government is encouraging investors who hoard land to give it to communities in order to address land shortage for agriculture and livestock keeping. "We have made significant progress in some regions. We want the idle land to be given back so that it can be reallocated to communities. With documented ownership and secure tenure, individuals and communities can use it to attain food security," explained the Deputy Minister.

In August this year GRL Tanzania Ltd handed back a total of 14,173 hectares to three villages in Mufindi and Kilombero Districts after the company failed to develop the land for economic reasons. The move sets precedence for other companies and institutions who hoard land to take similar measures in order to address the growing demand for land by communities.

In his presentation at the TALA forum, Land Tenure Specialist from Landesa, Masalu Luhula, says that there is global rise in demand for land return as companies, communities and governments re-evaluate land requirements following a slowdown in the surge in large-scale land acquisitions by foreign investors in 2000s.

He argues that the system benefits communities as it meets the challenge of increasing demand for land, what with population increase and a rising awakening in the importance of land. "But land returns must be followed by equitable reallocation among community members, surveys and land use plans. Issuance of CCROs is important in ensuring secure tenure," he says, adding that land returns should eventually lead to sustainable food security.

Luhula also notes that land returns may address tenure issues and lay ground for conflict resolution and increase in crop production.

"But if we examine the issue closely, we realize that there is a close relationship between secure land rights, food security and sustainable food systems. Food is grown on land by mostly small-scale farmers who feed the world. Maintaining land fertility so as to raise production depends on ownership and secure tenure. Experience shows that land owners who have secure ownership are more likely to use their land effectively engaging in sustainable food production and thereby addressing not only food security but also sustainable food systems. Without secure tenure, food security is at stake and so are food systems," he argues.

Male victims of GBV often feel isolated

By Zelda Venter

MALE victims of gender-based violence (GBV) often feel isolated and too ashamed to speak up about their trauma and experiences.

This is according to the organisation Khulisa Social Solutions, which has been delivering peace-building, community-led mediation and social cohesion interventions to vulnerable communities in South Africa for more than 25 years.

Data and insights gathered through its recent dialogue circles, following the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence Campaign, have painted an urgent picture indicating that while GBV disproportionately affects women, it is crucial to acknowledge that men can also be victims.

Khulisa's Sophiatown victim empowerment centre has played a major role in supporting male victims who have experienced domestic violence, child neglect, abuse from partners and where substance abuse affects their household.

"Understanding South Africa's history and the context of GBV, it is evident that women are the most



Social activist Lucinda Evans opens a Safe House for Men in Cape Town in an effort to raise awareness around GBV and men who fall victim to it

vulnerable group. We also need to understand that men can be victims of GBV as well, especially boys in their adolescent years." Africa Monyai, a criminology researcher and programme officer at Khulisa, said. Monyai said the issue was not addressed enough in South Africa.

"Providing young men with the support resources and safe spaces for them to process and overcome trauma is crucial to help them establish healthy coping mechanisms. If young male victims do not get the support they need, evidence shows that this can lead to them inflict-

ing the same harm and abuse that they experienced." Khulisa's Sophiatown victim empowerment centre has played a major role in supporting male victims who have experienced domestic violence, child neglect, abuse from partners and where substance abuse af-

fects their household.

Male victims of gender-based violence face distinct challenges as they navigate a societal landscape often focused on female victimisation. While GBV disproportionately affects women, it is crucial to acknowledge that men can also be victims.

Monyai said the forms of violence encompassed physical, emotional and sexual abuse. Yet cultural norms surrounding masculinity might discourage men from reporting their experiences. Societal expectations that equated strength with emotional stoicism could exacerbate the trauma male victims endure, making it difficult for them to come forward and seek help.

"From interventions with over 150 ex-offenders over the past year, we found that they have all been victims of abuse and violence themselves. This reveals that many men feel that they do not have a safe space to report their experiences or discuss their trauma with others."

Monyai said that often led to a build-up of anger and inadequate coping mechanisms

which could sometimes lead to violent behaviour.

"During our dialogue circles, we aim to create these safe spaces for experience sharing and to dissolve the stigma around men being vulnerable. This needs to become normal," he said.

Khulisa Social Solutions is a non-profit company that helps vulnerable children, youth and communities unlock their potential and develop skills toward a sustainable future.

It operates nationally, employs more than 180 staff through 18 offices, and works in about 150 communities, in collaboration with 350 NGO partners, impacting the lives of close to 200 000 people a year.

Khulisa partners with national and local government departments, schools, correctional facilities, community leaders, corporates, thought leaders, academic institutions, and private companies. Khulisa internationally acclaimed and locally awarded best practice programmes deliver positive and measurable impact, with the main focus on youth and community development.

IFAD initiates novel funding for climate adaptation in Eastern Africa



By Special Correspondent

FOLLOWING the recent release of data confirming a sharp global decline in climate finance dedicated to adaptation efforts, the UN's

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and partners have today unveiled a new financing mechanism to boost support to small-scale food producers in rural communities in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda to adapt to a

changing climate.

The Africa Rural Climate Adaptation Finance Mechanism (ARCAFIM) is a large-scale model of tailored finance for poor small-scale food producers and rural microenterprises. Small and medium-

sized rural agribusinesses will also access concessional loans through this new scheme. The mechanism is scalable and can be replicated in other countries and regions.

"We need to invest at speed and scale to ensure rural popula-

tions, including rural small scale food producers, are able to adapt to climate impacts now," said Alvaro Lario, President of IFAD, at ARCAFIM's launch event at the climate change conference (COP 28). Lario emphasized IFAD's commitment to making a positive impact on people's lives through innovative financial solutions such as ARCAFIM, bringing together funding from like-minded partners, and leveraging collaboration with the private sector.

Access to finance is essential to sustain and improve the agricultural livelihoods that vulnerable rural communities rely upon. Strengthening their resilience to climate change has become urgent. Supporting small and medium-sized enterprises in rural areas in turn supports increased employment, income, and services to rural communities.

ARCAFIM aims to contribute to reducing poverty and hunger in Eastern Africa. It seeks to make agriculture more sustainable and profitable, while enhancing rural communities' capacity to withstand a variety of climate and economic shocks. The mechanism will leverage potential linkages within IFAD's existing portfolio of projects in the region.

Pioneering climate change adaptation financing through private sector

ARCAFIM integrates blended finance and incentivises private sector participation through a risk-sharing mechanism. Equity Bank Kenya and its affiliates in Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda (subsidiaries of Equity Group Holdings) will contribute US\$90 million. IFAD will channel an additional US\$90 million, with funding from Finland, the

Green Climate Fund (GCF), and the Nordic Development Fund (NDF). The total US\$180 million will be devoted to climate change adaptation loans. In addition, US\$20 million will be mobilized from partners including Denmark and GCF to provide technical assistance to boost the market's capacity to provide climate adaptation finance.

"We are pleased to have the Equity Group as our implementing partner. Equity is a well-established private bank in East Africa with a strong capacity for rural lending. And they are committed to expanding climate adaptation finance, which is what ARCAFIM aims to do to trigger a systemic change in climate change adaptation financing to reduce poverty and hunger in Eastern Africa," said Lario. He also expressed gratitude for the collaboration with the Nordic countries, highlighting their global reputation for climate finance innovations.

The event launching the finance mechanism was moderated by Dr. Jyotsna Puri (Jo), Associate Vice-President, Strategy and Knowledge Department at IFAD. Carla Montesi, Director for the Green Deal and Digital Agenda at the Directorate-General for International Partnerships, European Commission; James Mwangi, Group Managing Director and CEO, Equity Group Holdings; Karin Isaksson, Managing Director, Nordic Development Fund (NDF); Lilian Macharia, Director of Portfolio Management, Green Climate Fund (GCF); Ole Thonke, Undersecretary of Development Policy Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Denmark; and Ville Tavio, Minister of Foreign Trade and Development, Government of Finland, also participated at the event.

RADIO One **RATIBA YA VIPINDI** **JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08:20 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08:20 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08:20 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08:20 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08:20 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08:20 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08:20 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI



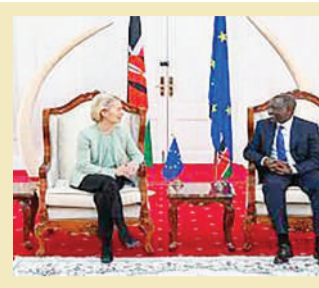
CURRENT NEWS
KRA builds new system for SMEs after e-Tims uproar

Page 14



BUSINESS NEWS
Vehicle assembler wins President Samia award

Page 14



OUTLOOK & ANALYSIS
Kenya and European Union sign 'historic' trade deal

Page 15

NBC awarded for contributing better to the industrial sector development

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has presented the honorary award to NBC Bank in recognition of its significant contribution to the industrial sector's development.

The award symbolizes the bank's instrumental role in the success of the 17th season of the President's Manufacturers of the Year Awards (PMAYA) and its efforts in accelerating the growth of the industrial sector through its financial services. Notably, NBC Bank, for the second consecutive year, served as the main sponsor of the annual awards.

During the award ceremony held in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, President Samia presented the award to Mr. Theobald Sabi, the MD of NBC Bank.

The PMAYA awards, organized by the Confederation of Tanzanian Industries (CTI), aim to acknowledge the economic contributions of the industrial sector and foster competition among the industries in service provision.

President Samia congratulated NBC Bank and other sponsors of the awards while emphasizing the future of the industrial sector in the country. She particularly highlighted the issue of reliable electricity supply and emphasized the role

of financial services in promoting prosperity in the industrial sector and stimulating competition in both domestic and international markets.

"I acknowledge the difficulties associated with obtaining dollars, but I am grateful to observe that our financial experts have successfully tackled the obstacle of dollar accessibility. Presently, we have the capability to offer a substantial advancement in this area, allowing for an allocation of up to two million dollars per individual per day."

"This noteworthy progress is in stark contrast to the previous limitation of five hundred thousand dollars per person per day, which was enforced during the most challenging periods." President Samia emphasized, noting that the accomplishment surpasses the efforts of neighboring nations, as they currently face the inability to even offer five hundred thousand dollars per person per day.

She added that the government is currently implementing various measures to ensure increased dollar access in the country. This includes encouraging the growth of exports, particularly through the sale of products from the industrial and agricultural sectors, with a particular focus on horticulture.

Theobald Sabi, NBC Bank manag-



President Samia Suluhu Hassan presents Hanspaal Satbir Singh chief executive officer for Hanspaal Company Limited with a trophy for best automobiles and vehicle accessories-medium size at the President's Manufacturer of the Year Award 2023 held on Sunday night in Dar es Salaam. Looking on is Paul Makanza, chairman Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI). Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala.

ing director announced that the bank is fully equipped to offer an array of services and opportunities to the industrial sector stakeholders in the country. The services encompass a wide range of loans, specifically tailored to boost production in various industries, provision of insurance services to safeguard against disasters and mitigate interest rate fluctuations.

"We also offer both domestic and international payment services, including government revenue collection, and extension of loans to facilitate international trade financing," he said.

He further emphasized the bank's commitment to develop comprehensive banking services for specific groups, such as small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), women, and entrepreneurs.

The collaboration between the essential groups and major industrial stakeholders is believed to foster substantial cross-interactions, ultimately propelling the country's economic growth.

Sabi assured President Samia of the association's unwavering dedication to serve the industrial sector. He commended the government's commendable efforts to create a business-friendly environment, stimulate economic openness, and attract lucrative investments.

"The positive outcomes witnessed across multiple sectors, including tourism, infrastructure, exports, and mining, are a testament to the government's steadfast commitment and have undoubtedly facilitated abundant opportunities for financial institutions across the nation... We are very grateful,

Your Excellency, Madam President," Sabi said, expressing his profound gratitude to President Samia for the significant achievements.

Paul Makanza, CTI chairman acknowledged the fruitful collaboration between industrial stakeholders, the government, and financial institutions in the country. He specifically commended NBC Bank for its invaluable partnership with the stakeholders, evident through the bank's unwavering support and services provided during various events, including the Tanzania International Manufacturers Expo (TIMEXPO) and the President's Manufacturer of the Year Awards (PMAYA).

He further expressed his heartfelt appreciation for the bank's commitment to fostering overall growth within the industrial sector.

AOTTL scoops award in the tobacco processing industries

By Guardian Reporter

THE Morogoro-based Alliance One Tobacco Tanzania Limited (AOTTL) has won the large category in the tobacco processing industries in the country's PMAYA, organized by Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) outpacing many others players in that regard.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan graced the annual event, held on Sunday in Dar es Salaam.

John Magoti, AOTTL spokesperson ddvocate received award on behalf of the company.

Giving company's overview while speaking to this paper in the sidelines of PMAYA, the company's managing director Ephraim Mapoore said: "We won this title not by coincidence, but by the company's strong adherence to best farming as well as business practices as well as closely taking care of the farmers contracted to them."

According to him, the successful Payment to tobacco farmers 2023, whereby AOTTL paid a total of \$71.9 million (179.8bn/-) to more than 12,000 contracted tobacco growers in the country this season.

He said that the payment which was paid in time came as a result of the high-quality tobacco delivered this year by the farmers.

Mapoore also noted that the company \$1.81 million (4.6bn/-) to agricultural marketing cooperative society (AMCOS) fees for year 2023

The company also paid \$780,000 (1.95bn/-) as levy to tobacco cooperative unions, which are the apex bodies in cooperatives set up.

the manager unveiled that the company also paid a total of \$1.72 million (4.3bn/-) as a crop cess, the amount which is usually paid directly to various districts in which they operate from.

"These payments were made in compliance with the government's recent directive that all tobacco payments to growers should be made within 14 days from the date of the completion of the market and all payments must be made in USD," he stated.

On Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), the company set aside 400m/- every year for education as part of giving back to the community around our areas of operations.

They donate in water, health and education mainly covering their areas of operations.

In 2023, the company donated school facilities worth 222,762,898/- to two Morogoro based primary schools namely Kingolwira and Bungo primary schools. The assistance directly benefiting a total of 3600 pupils in both schools was used in construction of classrooms and toilets.

"This year the company donated three modern computers and health facilities valued at 8.8 mn/- to support the Morogoro regional referral hospital to conduct orthopedic operations. Part of the donation was computers that were given to police force for use in combating crime," he said.

The company has implemented the afforestation projects in the three districts in Kigoma region, with a total of 1412.5acre(565ha) having been planted and managed since 2014.

The company did so in collaboration with its contracted farmers in three districts of the region namely Uvinza, Buhigwe and Kasulu.

Mapoore also stated that the company also this year launched at Ngukumo area in Nzega district for sustainable wood supply for its contracted tobacco growers totalling more than 7000 hectares under joint forest management

On challenges, Mapoore said that pending tax disputes with Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), which is too exorbitant for them, adding that they had two options, to either pay or close business.

On water problem, he said: "There is no water connection from Moruwasa and that they currently depend on their own water wells, rain water harvested to the dam."

BII makes \$15m anchor commitment to NMB Bank's sustainability bond

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

BRITISH International Investment (BII), the UK's development finance institution and impact investor, announced its anchor commitment of \$15 million to NMB Bank's ("NMB") inaugural sustainability bond offering, known as the NMB Jamii Bond.

In Tanzania, NMB is a market leader and pioneer in sustainability, promoting financial inclusion and wellbeing. The bank has received a total of 400bn/- from its dual-tranche sustainability bond, significantly above its target subscription, making it the largest sustainability bond

ever issued in the East African region.

The Jamii bond was backed by over 5600 local investors and co-anchored by BII and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group. The level of oversubscription is a powerful testament to the growing capacity of local capital markets to meet the growing need for climate and sustainability financing and mobilisation of institutional and other impact investors.

The proceeds from the bond will finance social and climate projects that contribute to inclusive socioeconomic growth and strengthen the response to

climate change.

Seema Dhanani, Head of Office and Coverage Director, Kenya and East Africa, BII, said: "We are delighted to be one of the anchor investors in the Jamii Bond, the first of its kind issued by NMB Bank and listed on the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange. This aligns with our strategy in supporting the development of capital markets in Tanzania and serves as a fine example for institutional investors and financial institutions in the region to encourage greater innovation in this area. We look forward to supporting further initiatives to finance high quality projects that deliver climate and development

impact."

Ruth Zaipuna, CEO of NMB Bank Plc, said: "The extraordinary success of the bond demonstrates the strong appreciation among Tanzanian and global investors for the soundness of NMB Bank and its commitment to the sustainability of its operations, business, community, and environment. It further reiterates the bank's creditworthiness and the desire of local and international investors to take advantage of the multiple safe and impactful investment opportunities offered by the robust investment climate of the country".

One year T-bills rise to 16pc as investors seek better returns

NAIROBI

Investors increased their interest rate demands on short-term government debt past the 16 percent mark in last week's Treasury bills sale, reacting to the move by the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) to raise its base lending rate by two percentage points in its December 5 policy setting meeting.

The results of the weekly Treasury bills auction showed that the average rate demanded by investors on the 364-day paper stood at 16.41 percent, up from 15.79 percent the previous week. The CBK, however, rejected the expensive bids on the paper, with the average rate for accepted offers standing at 15.83 percent.



The central bank of Kenya.

The increase in the Central Bank Rate (CBR) to 12.5 percent is expected to translate into higher borrowing costs for the government, which the Treasury hopes will help the exchange rate down the road by attracting foreign investors to government securities.

The T-bills sale raised Sh1709 billion, against a target of Sh24 billion.

"This upward revision in the CBR is expected to result in an increase in the rates on government securities offered in the primary market with the potential benefit of attracting holders of foreign currency assets, thus unlocking dollar liquidity into the market," said analysts at NCBA.

Treasury bills had seen limited

rate movement in recent weeks after racing to the 15 percent level by the end of the third quarter.

Analysts now expect renewed upward pressure from the CBR hike, and also from the recent adjustment - via the Supplementary Budget - in the net domestic borrowing target for the fiscal year to Sh474.5 billion from Sh415.1 billion.

In last week's auction, the highest yield was on the 182-day paper, which came in at 15.92 percent, up from 15.74 percent the previous week. The rate on the 91-day paper rose from 15.63 percent to 15.77 percent.

On the 364-day T-bill, the rate went up marginally from 15.79 percent to 15.83 percent, despite the lofty rate demanded by in-

vestors.

The relatively low volume of bids on this paper (Sh629 million) meant that the CBK could afford to leave aside the expensive offers without affecting the overall performance of the auction.

Investors instead went for the 91-day paper, which raised Sh13.54 billion, while the 182-day managed Sh2.9 billion.

Aside from the pressure on the taxpayer due to the higher T-bill rates raising the cost of public debt, bank loan borrowers will also be wary of the higher interest rates filtering through to their facilities in a period of economic difficulties that have made it more challenging to service loans.

Vehicle assembler wins President Samia award

By Francis Kajubi

GF Vehicle Assembler has emerged the winner of the President's Manufacturer of The Year Award 2023 by spearheading the assembling of trucks and heavy machines for construction and mining activities.

The Kibaha-based assembler in the Coast region emerged the winner of President Samia Suluhu Hassan's prestigious 'Best Vehicle Assembler of the Year Award 2023' held in Dar es Salaam on Sunday evening.

The awards have been organized by the government through the Ministry of Industry and Trade in collaboration with the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) and other business unions in recognition of the local manufacturers' contribution to the industrialization agenda.

Speaking at the sidelines of the event, Salman Karmali, GF Vehicle Assembler Commercial Director said that the award stands as a motivation and a sign of appreciation by the government for its contribution to the country's economy.

"The award motivates us to consider more investments in this business. So far since the beginning of the year we have assembled over 2,000 vehicles up from almost 1,000 last year. The target is assembling 3,500 vehicles next year," said Karmali.

Just two weeks ago the mother company GF Automobiles entered into a partnership with Mahindra for assembling Mahindra branded cars at its facility in Kibaha district.

"GF Group is a proud employer of over 500 locals directly in its factories and another 700 indirectly. Our collaboration with Mahindra is a great milestone that symbolizes



President Samia Suluhu Hassan presents Salman Karmali, GF Vehicle Assembler commercial director with a trophy for best vehicle assembler of the year 2023 at the President's Manufacturer of the Year Award 2023 held on Sunday night in Dar es Salaam. Looking on is Paul Makanza, chairman Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI).

shared commitment towards driving prosperity in the country's automotive industry," said Karmali at the announcement of the partnership.

He however said that the company has recently introduced to the market a new truck model designed purposely to serve agricultural activities such as transporting agricultural products from one place to another.

Known as Forland, the truck model was launched during this year's agriculture exhibition in Mbeya city.

"Being one of the largest truck manufacturing companies in the country, we have found it wise to design a product that all farmers can benefit from in the entire chain of the agricultural and agribusiness sectors," he said.

GF Company has for about 16 years of service has been a leader in the sale of XCMG type trucks and machines for mining operations, construction companies and contracting for road carving.

The company in collaboration with commercial banks and

other financial institutions has established an affordable procedure to enable local contractors with project tenders to borrow machineries and equipment at favorable conditions and compete with foreign companies in obtaining tenders.

GF is a partner and dealer of XCMG machines in Tanzania. This year XCMG has marked 80 years in this business. It has devoted itself more to enabling small-scale miners to get mining equipment at affordable prices and loans.

KRA builds new system for SMEs after e-Tims uproar

NAIROBI

Small businesses will only be required to show a record of transactions rather than generate electronic invoices as the Kenya Revenue Authority works on a separate system to accommodate their operations.

Starting January 1, 2024, every transaction has to be backed by an electronic invoice but the taxman wants to shield small businesses from this requirement owing to high compliance costs and concerns of gaps in technology adoption.

In the new system whose rollout is yet to be approved, rather than generating and transmitting electronic invoices through the electronic Tax Invoice Management System (e-Tims), small businesses will only show transactions.

Hakamba Wangwe, KRA chief manager for eTims, said the system will be of great benefit to farmers who don't have the technical capacity to operate within the various internet-based solutions.

"So what happened is that we have worked on a further simplified solution for the lower-end taxpayers," said Ms Wangwe in an interview with a local outlet.

Wangwe said that the KRA will cap the qualification threshold for this category subject to approval. However, she noted that they might cap it at the threshold of businesses that pay turnover tax.

Turnover tax is paid by any Kenyan business with annual sales of more than Sh1 million but does not exceed or is expected to exceed Sh25 million in any year of income.

"So that if you are falling in that category of the lowest end of taxpayers, then we have solutions that are being developed that are very simple. All you need is for you to account for a transaction," added Ms Wangwe.

"You don't have to do stock management. We just need to do visibility: 'What did you sell to so and so?'" she added.

Starting January next year, the KRA will also be integrating e-Tims to other tax categories, which means if you want to declare a transaction as a business claim then you need to support it by producing an electronic tax invoice.

The taxman will not accept invoices from suppliers not captured on e-Tims, an internet-enabled tax register that relays real-time sales data to the taxman for firms registered to collect value-added tax (VAT).

By not recognising expenses paid to suppliers not captured in the e-registry, this will reduce a firm's costs and inflate

its profits and ultimately increase its tax obligations.

Ms Wangwe said that the implementation of the e-TIMS has so far captured a lot of Nil and non-filers, an indicator that for long these taxpayers were concealing their transactions from the taxman.

So far the KRA has on-boarded almost all the registered VAT taxpayers, who include mostly large and medium taxpayers. There are a total of 250,000 registered VAT taxpayers, with 76,960 having been on-boarded through Tims, which uses electronic registers.

Another 53,010 have been on-boarded through e-Tims with the administration of President William Ruto emphasising the use of technology to net more taxpayers.

Some 3,500 that are already on board are not VAT-registered.

"Ideally, if the register we have for VAT is accurate then we should have the entire 250,000 on board," said Ms Wangwe.

"Should this number not come through then we are going to take some cleaning of our register because we have some entities that need to be registered especially the non-filers."

The VAT, which is charged at 16 percent, is one of the tax categories that the government will rely on to meet the collection target of Sh2.57 trillion.

The e-Tims, said Ms Wangwe, is already providing the KRA with that much-needed visibility.

"I can tell you for a fact we have had a situation where taxpayers have actually been perpetual nil filers and then they come to this implementation and now they have to start filing payment returns." She also attributed the growth in VAT to the implementation of Tims and e-TIMS. "That means it has had an impact."

In the first quarter of the current fiscal year, VAT on local products increased by 21.1 percent to Sh75.8 billion from Sh62.6 billion a year earlier. However, the target of Sh79.2 billion was missed by Sh3.4 billion.

The VAT on imports meanwhile grew by 11.7 percent to Sh77.2 billion in the review period.

The KRA also wants to use the new system to recruit more VAT agents, noting that there are many businesses with a turnover of more than Sh5 million a year, the threshold for collecting VAT on behalf of the taxman, but which have not been registered because their transactions are not visible to the KRA.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan speaks with leaders, the business community and invited guests during the President's Manufacturer of the Year Awards ceremony in Dar es Salaam on Sunday. Photo: State House

Govt reduces taxes on residential houses

KIGALI

In an effort to bolster the economy and enhance financial ease for property owners, the government has announced substantial tax reductions on residential properties.

Uzziel Ndagijimana, the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, revealed these reforms on Sunday, December 17, during an interview with state broadcaster, Rwanda Television.

Under the revised tax structure, the levy on a second residential house has been slashed to 0.5% of the combined market value of the property and land. This marks a significant decrease from the previous rate of 1%. Notably, the primary residence remains exempt from this tax, with the owner only responsible for land tax.

The initiative forms a part of a comprehensive tax reform strategy aimed at lowering tax rates, broadening the tax base, and bol-

stering compliance while curbing evasion. The government projects an increase in tax revenues equivalent to 1% of GDP by the fiscal year 2025/26.

Moreover, a comprehensive review has been conducted on taxes and fees collected by decentralized entities, further streamlining the tax framework.

Minister Ndagijimana highlighted, "Previously, the second residential house was taxed separately for the house and the land it occupies. Now, these taxes have been amalgamated. Taxpayers will now only pay a single tax, amounting to 0.5% of the total value of both the house and the land."

Commercial building owners also stand to benefit from reduced taxes, with the rate lowered from 0.5% to 0.3% of the property's market value on both the building and the land. However, tax charges on commercial buildings are capped at Rwf30 billion.

Furthermore, the revised tax structure extends its benefits to multi-floor residential and condominium houses. Houses with three floors will now pay 0.25%, down from the previous 0.5%. Those with over three floors will only be taxed at 0.1%.

The changes also encompass adjustments in land tax rates, with plots recently designated as residential zones but lacking essential infrastructure possibly being exempt from taxation. The revised rates set the land tax between Rwf0 to Rwf80 per square meter, a considerable reduction from the prior Rwf0 to Rwf300 rate. In a move to enhance Rwanda's economic competitiveness, the government has reduced the corporate income tax statutory rate from 30% to 28%, with a long-term target of reaching 20%. These measures aim to position Rwanda as an attractive investment destination within Africa.

Additionally, alterations in taxation

on high-end products, particularly beverages, have been implemented to stimulate the tourism and MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) industry.

The adjustments in taxation on the sale of immovable property will now entail a 2% levy on the property value for registered taxpayers and 2.5% for non-registered taxpayers. The initial five million of every property sale will be tax exempt.

Furthermore, simplification measures have been introduced for businesses and traders, consolidating the trading license tax into a single payment, particularly beneficial for businesses operating across multiple branches within a district.

Also, certain fees previously levied by decentralized entities have been abolished to align with the overarching goal of achieving stable revenue growth in the medium term.

CURRENT NEWS



Chief Manager Domestic Taxes Department (DTD) Hakamba Wangwe

Kenya and European Union sign 'historic' trade deal

NAIROBI

KENYA and the European Union on Monday signed a long-negotiated trade agreement to increase the flow of goods between the two markets, as Brussels pursues stronger economic ties with Africa.

The Economic Partnership Agreement will give Kenya duty-free and quota-free access to the EU, its biggest export market, while European goods will receive progressive tariff reductions.

The agreement is the first broad trade deal between the EU and an African nation since 2016 and follows a spending spree by China on lavish infrastructure projects across the continent.

"Although today represents a moment of monumental promise, it is also the beginning of a historic partnership for historic transformation," Kenyan President William Ruto said at a ceremony attended by European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen in Kenya's capital Nairobi.

"The core of this arrangement is to put real money into the pockets of ordinary people," said Ruto.

EU chief von der Leyen said the partnership was a "win-win situation on both sides" and called on other East African

nations to join the pact, which came after years of negotiations that concluded in June.

"We are deepening trade ties and building up our economic resilience," she said.

"We are opening a new chapter in our very strong relationship and now our effort should be focused on implementation," von der Leyen added.

Both the Kenyan and the European parliaments must ratify the deal before it comes into force.

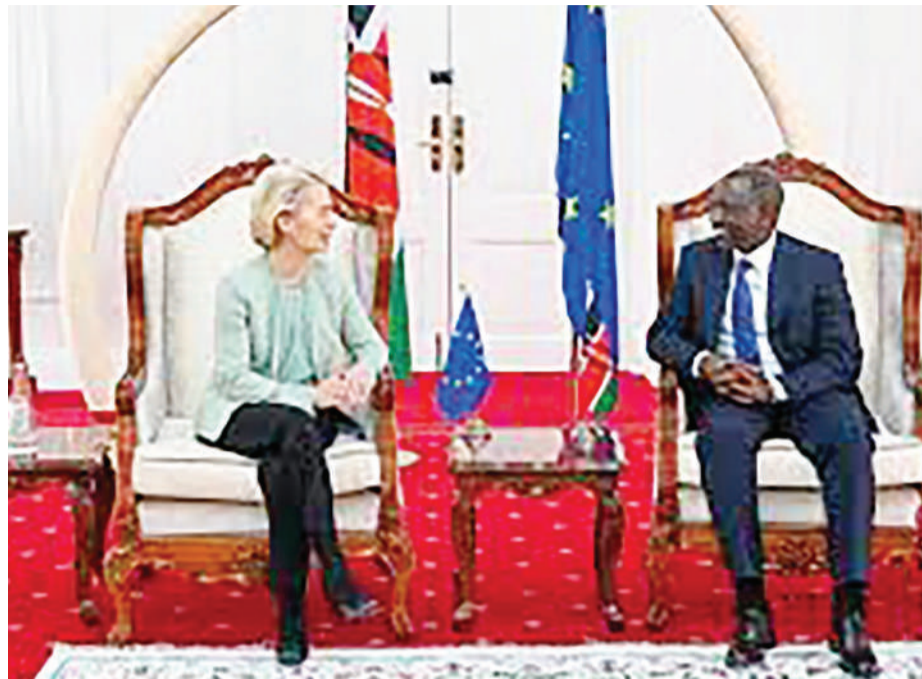
The European Union said that the deal was "the most ambitious economic partnership" it had with a developing country.

It includes commitments to sustainable development in areas such as labour rights and environmental protection, the EU said in a statement.

"A dedicated chapter has been included on economic and development cooperation, aimed at enhancing the competitiveness of the Kenyan economy," the EU said.

EU's trade commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis said the "historic agreement" would unlock new areas for cooperation and benefit.

The 27-nation bloc accounts for more than 20 percent of Kenya's overall exports, according to government data, mainly agricultural products, including vegetables, fruits and the country's famous tea and



President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen (L) and President of Kenya William Ruto (R) observe how their representatives sign a new trade agreement

coffee. Total two-way trade between the markets hit 3.3 billion euros (\$3.6 billion) in 2022, up 27 percent since 2018, according to EU figures.

Africa has become a renewed diplomatic battleground since the Ukraine war began, with Kenya and other countries on the continent aggressively courted by Russia

and China and the West.

An economic powerhouse of east Africa, Kenya is seen by the international community as a reliable and stable democracy in a turbulent region.

The EU has taken steps to counter China's Belt and Road programme, announcing in February it would increase investments in Kenya by hundreds of millions of dollars through its own Global Gateway initiative.

Kenya's biggest infrastructure project, a \$5 billion railway line connecting Nairobi to the port city of Mombasa, which opened in 2017, was built by a Chinese company with Chinese financing.

Kenya is also negotiating a trade deal with the United States.

The new trade deal with Europe is the culmination of trade talks between the EU and the regional East African Community (EAC) that started roughly a decade ago.

Kenya signed and ratified an initial trade agreement with the EU in 2016 alongside the EAC but it fell through after some countries failed to greenlight the pact, with Kenya eventually pursuing its own deal.

"This agreement leaves the door wide open for our EAC partners to join so that together as a region we can benefit," Ruto said.



Four African countries set to test run the World Bank's \$15 billion energy program

By Chinedu Okafor

FOUR African countries have been selected by the World Bank to test a program that is expected to help at least 100 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa by 2030. The pilot for the Clean Energy program would be carried out in Somalia, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Sao Tome and Principe.

Over the following seven years, the "Accelerating Sustainable and Clean Energy Access Transformation (Ascent) program" will be expanded to 20 nations in the area.

Ajay Banga, President of the

World Bank Group, revealed the \$15 billion project in Zanzibar during the International Development Association's (IDA) mid-term review conference of its 20th financing round.

"We know it won't solve the problem of access to power for the entire continent since there are more than 600 million Africans facing the problem. But we see it as a start and also a platform to draw more interest among IDA partners to also join the cause through similar investments," the World Bank president relayed.

The World Bank noted that this

program would be very instrumental to the development of the region where the percentage of people who have access to electricity in the urban areas is just 48% and those in rural areas with access to electricity stands at 26%.

"The lack of energy access is the most significant challenge to development progress in the region today (as it) hinders economic recovery and faster progress toward poverty reduction," the bank stated.

"It also results in significant food spoilage owing to lack of refrigeration, particularly in coun-

tries already plagued with food insecurity, and plays a role in poor health outcomes given that less than half of all hospitals in the region have reliable electricity access," the bank added.

The bank also added that the program is also designed to aid and empower women in the region. "Women, who are often disproportionately burdened by lack of energy access, will benefit the most and will also be provided additional income-generating opportunities to unleash their economic potential," the Bank said.

High cost of transport: More items travelling on yuletide

LAGOS

At Christmas, there is always excitement and many people love to travel from one place to another. It is almost generally regarded as vacation or holiday period.

At this period too, many people show off their achievements and exchange gift items. However, apparently for these factors, both transporters and business people, exploit the opportunity to hike fares and prices.

Usually, because there's always huge cash flow within the society, people never bothered how much they buy items or what fares they pay to get to their holiday destinations.

But, the present economic condition of the country has appeared a game changer. Not only do people experience little or no cash flows, even the banks appear stingy to release cash deposited with them.

While people are given limits to how much they can withdraw from the money they have in the bank, the networks are never stable to support online financial transactions. And, so, the banking public is in a dilemma.

The resultant effect of this condition is that the large crowd usually witnessed mostly at the inter-state bus terminals in Lagos metropolis, for instance, scampers to buy tickets for travelling,

is waning. Instead the haulage departments of these transport companies are brimming with people who come to package items for waybill to their loved ones.

Those who spoke to Economy&Lifestyle when we went round some parts of Lagos, confessed that it was profitable for them to send food items or other wares through waybill to their loved ones than spending fortunes to transport their families to such destinations, when they are not sure how to survive in the coming year.

Mrs MaryAnn Edebor, who confessed that she has never missed to travel to her home state every

December period, said: "I travel every December to celebrate Christmas and New year with my mother and siblings since I relocated to Lagos. But this year, I had to cancel the trip because of high cost of transportation and food stuff. Already transport to Onitsha is as high as N29,000 now. So it means before Christmas, it may get to N30,000 or even more. Now, how can I foot such bill with my family of four"? She queried.

She however said that in contrast, the waybill for two bags of rice and 25 litres of groundnut oil she wished to send home, will cost her only N12000, which makes more economic sense.

Namibian entrepreneurs keep car scrapping business thriving via innovative approaches

WINDHOEK

LOCAL entrepreneurs in Namibia's car scrapping industry are seizing the opportunity presented by the high cost of spare parts to foster business growth and create job opportunities.

Car scrapping entails buying bumped cars from people or old ones at auctions and breaking them apart for parts.

Gerhard Mumbala, who runs City Plug Investment specializing in scrapping old cars since 2018, has seen a significant increase in income over the years.

The demand for his services is driven by the high cost of spare parts and the country's inflation surge as locals seek bargains.

According to the Namibia Statistics Agency, inflation stood at 5.7 percent in November 2023. Data from local research firm Simonis Storm Securities released in September showed that spare parts and accessories prices have increased 5.3 percent, and repair charges rose 2.7 percent year-on-year.

"There is value hidden in the discarded vehicles as more locals opt to buy second-hand cars with cash and seek bargains for spare parts. This has become my lifeline," Mumbala, an electrical engineer, said Saturday.

While Mumbala deals with various car brands, the ones in demand are German brands like Volkswagen and Audi, Japanese brands such as Toyota, and emerging Chinese brands like Haval and GWM.

Car scrapping has since provided Mumbala with a steady income, highlighting the success and viability of this industry in Namibia.

"To create a niche, however, one needs to research the market for popular car models to know what to buy and what quantity to sell," he said.

Mumbala is not alone. Martin Fotoloela has also been in the business since 2006.

According to Fotoloela, car scrapping has allowed him to thrive in an industry with a long history in Namibia, yet remains more relevant than before.

"It remains appealing due to innovative approaches with each era, especially the car models, sales patterns and marketing strategies. But also, as people hope to do more with their money," he said.

To keep afloat, entrepreneurs diversify their offerings by customizing older cars and selling them locally to generate multiple income streams and thrive.

"We identify cars needing repair and use parts from scrapped vehicles, and bring them to life," said Fotoloela, a self-taught mechanic.

Meanwhile, the growth of salvaging and repurposing cars has positively impacted local communities. Mumbala employs 11 young people on contract, while Fotoloela employs six people.

The injection of jobs has brought hope to the unemployed. Josef Shiindi, 24, has worked at Mumbala's scrap yard since 2018. Getting a job has helped him not only gain skills but also ignited a sense of purpose and responsibility.

"It has been a dream come true to work as a mechanic and support my family back home in a village in the Omusati region," Shiindi said.

The industry also promotes a clean environment by disposing of car body parts through recycling.

"This exemplifies eco-conscious entrepreneurship," Mumbala emphasized.

In the long run, it will support the country's environmental protection and sustainability goals, said Romeo Muyunda, spokesperson for the Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism.

Despite the progress, entrepreneurs bemoaned challenges such as the difficulty of finding appropriate safe-keeping land and limited funds for expansion.

The entrepreneurs, however, remain undeterred and determined to expand services to other regions of the country.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

WORLD

Senior Russian envoy discusses free grain supplies to neediest countries with UN officials

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Vershinin discussed free Russian grain and fertilizer supplies to the world's neediest countries with United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Secretary General Rebeca Grynspan and UN Under-Secretary-General Martin Griffiths, the Russian Foreign Ministry reported after the consultations involving Russia's concerned agencies and companies.

"They continued a detailed exchange of views regarding the tasks of ensuring unimpeded access of Russian fertilizers and food to the world markets, taking into account their substantial share and for the sake of overcoming

crisis phenomena in the field of global food security as well as combatting the threats of starvation," the statement said.

In addition, they "discussed in detail Russian agricultural exports that have been blocked as a result of the Western countries' illegal unilateral sanctions."

"They also paid attention to humanitarian donations of domestic grain and fertilizers to the world's poorest nations," the ministry said.



Egypt monitoring Red Sea tension as ships avoid Suez Canal

CAIRO

EGYPT'S Suez Canal Authority (SCA) announced on Sunday it was closely monitoring the impacts of military tensions in the Red Sea, following major carriers taking alternative routes due to safety concerns.

The SCA Chairman Osama Rabie said in a statement that maritime traffic was normal in the canal connecting the Mediterranean and the Red Seas. He added that the SCA was closely evaluating the impact of certain shipping lines temporarily shifting their routes to the Cape of Good Hope.

In recent days, at least four major freight firms said to reduce or suspend passage through the Red Sea due to repeated attacks from Yemen's Houthi militia on commercial vessels in the area since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas conflict on Oct 7.

Rabie said only 55 ships have rerouted via the Cape of Good Hope route since Nov 19, compared with the passage of 2,128 ships through the Suez Canal during the period.

He added that 77 ships crossed the Suez Canal on Sunday, including some ships belonging to shipping lines that announced the temporary diversion.

Rabie affirmed that the Suez Canal would remain the fastest and shortest route for vessels transiting between Asia and Europe, as



A picture taken during an organised tour by Yemen's Houthi rebels on November 22, 2023 shows the Galaxy Leader cargo ship (right), seized by Houthi fighters two days earlier, approaching the port in the Red Sea off Yemen's province of Hodeida. AFP

time saved in sailing could range from nine days to two weeks, depending on ports of departure and arrival.

As the first shipping line alerted by the attacks, Danish logistics giant Maersk on Friday advised its fleet to halt all voyages through the Bab al-Mandab Strait, a narrow sea passage near Yemen, which holds immense strategic significance, serving as a major artery for global oil shipments and as a crucial gateway to the Suez Canal.

Maersk cited alarm over the "deteriorating situation" and "serious risks" to the safety of ships and crew.

Its decision will likely impact global supply chains, given that the company owns one of the world's largest container vessel fleets.

Other shipping leaders, including Switzerland's MSC, France's CMA CGM, and Germany's Hapag-Lloyd,

quickly followed suit, expressing similar worries over maritime security in the region.

On Saturday, MSC said its container ship MSC PALATIUM III was attacked at approximately 09:37 am GMT a day earlier while transiting the Red Sea under sub charter to Messina Line, prompting it to pause transit through the Suez Canal until the Red Sea passage is safe.

The Yemeni Houthi militia has claimed responsibility for several cross-border missile attacks towards Israel, as well as the hijacking and attacking of Israel-bound commercial ships in the Red Sea since the Gaza conflict.

The Suez Canal, which carries 12 percent of global trade, serves as one of Egypt's main sources of foreign currency.

Xinhua



Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin

Russian Prime Minister Mishustin pursuing busy agenda on December 19-20 visit to China

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin will visit China over the next two days, and is scheduled to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Chinese State Council Premier Li Qiang, the Russian government said in a press release.

"On December 19-20, 2023, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin will visit China under an agreement with the Chinese side," the statement said.

The head of the Russian cabinet will take part in the 28th regular meeting of the heads of government of Russia and China in Beijing. "Mikhail Mishustin will meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping and hold talks with Chinese State Council Premier Li Qiang," the press release said.

During the course of these high-level contacts, the sides plan to consider the development of comprehensive Russian-Chinese partnership relations and strategic cooperation, as well as practical cooperative, humanitarian and regional exchanges.

"Special attention will be paid to the expansion of trade and economic cooperation and the promotion of large-scale joint projects in various areas. The sides plan to adopt a joint communique and sign a number of Russian-Chinese bilateral documents," the Russian government said.

Multifaceted cooperation

The Russian government pointed out that cooperation with China "is developing steadily in all directions despite the difficult external economic situation." Mutual trade turnover is growing and will reach a new record by the end of 2023, exceeding the \$200 bln mark for the first time.

More than 90% of all bilateral settlements are executed in the two countries' respective national currencies: the ruble and the yuan.

Strategic cooperation in the energy sector is expanding with exports of Russian hydrocarbons to China on a growth trend.

Russia has become the number one supplier of oil to the Chinese market, and holds second place as a supplier of coal and third place as a supplier of liquefied natural gas (LNG), the Russian government stressed.

Natural gas flows to China via the Power of Siberia pipeline are being systematically increased, the Far Eastern gas pipeline is being planned, and the terms for delivering gas supplies to China through Mongolia are being worked out.

Cooperation in the field of agriculture will be strengthened. Thus, agribusiness products have become the second largest Russian export to China after hydrocarbons, with the volume of agricultural deliveries in the first 10 months of 2023 increasing by 63% to \$6.2 bln. Work is underway to expand mutual market access.

Humanitarian contacts, which suffered greatly during the COVID-19 pandemic, are being restored.

The number of Russian students attending Chinese universities is growing; the number of mutual tourist trips is gradually increasing; and the dynamics of contacts in the fields of culture, tourism and exhibition activities, as well as in cinematography, are on the rise.

As well, events under the Years of Russian-Chinese Cooperation in Physical Culture and Sports (2022-2023) program are being successfully carried out.

China plans to participate in the first Games of the Future international multisport tournament in Kazan in February-March 2024. Finally, preparations are underway to hold respective intercultural years of Russia and China in 2024-2025.

Agencies



Special attention will be paid to the expansion of trade and economic cooperation and the promotion of large-scale joint projects in various areas. The sides plan to adopt a joint communique and sign a number of Russian-Chinese bilateral documents

To work together for China-Vietnam community with shared future that carries strategic significance

CHINESE President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, held talks with Nguyen Phu Trong, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) Central Committee at the premise of the CPV Central Committee on Dec. 12, local time.

The two sides announced a new characterization of the relationship for the two parties and two countries, working together for a China-Vietnam community with a shared future that carries

strategic significance on the basis of deepening the comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership.

The announcement sent out a positive signal of solidarity and friendship between the two parties and two countries, as well as their firm commitment to jointly step on the path of socialism and modernization.

It is believed that with the joint efforts of the two sides, China-Vietnam relations will enter a new stage of greater political mutual trust, more substantive security

cooperation, deeper mutually beneficial cooperation, more solid popular foundation, closer multilateral coordination and collaboration, and more proper management of differences.

China and Vietnam will achieve more progress in their socialist causes, and make new contributions to stability, development and prosperity of the region and the entire world.

China and Vietnam have supported each other in their struggle for national independence and liberation, and learned from

each other's causes of reform and opening up and Doi Moi. The characterization "camaraderie plus brotherhood" well captures the profound friendship between the two countries.

No matter how the global environment has changed, the two parties and countries have worked together to uphold peace and tranquility, pursue development and cooperation, and promote prosperity and progress. They have found a promising path of jointly building a community with a shared future for

mankind.

Xi proposed several suggestions, charting the course on building a China-Vietnam community with a shared future.

To build a China-Vietnam community with a shared future, it is important to keep to the right political direction, deepen mutual trust on security, upgrade practical cooperation, increase input to enhance popular foundation, coordinate closely on international and regional issues, and manage differences on maritime issues.

Truong noted that Vietnam

stands ready to work with China to build a community with a shared future that carries strategic significance, follow the vision of making progress on six fronts, bolster cooperation across the political, economy and trade, security and people-to-people fields, and develop a paradigm of mutually beneficial cooperation. This serves the common interests of the two parties, two governments and two peoples.

The Vietnamese side said Vietnam is firmly committed to the one-China principle, opposes in-

Kenya probes activities of new alliance amid diplomatic

NAIROBI

KENYA said Sunday it has launched an investigation into the activities of a new alliance from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) that has sparked a diplomatic spat between the two countries.

On Friday, Congolese nationals including the M23 rebels, who have seized territory in eastern Congo, and Corneille Nangaa, a former Congolese election commission chairman, launched the Congo River Alliance in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya.

Nangaa told journalists during the launch of the alliance that it also targets the military, civil society organizations, and the diaspora community, and is motivated by the desire to save the DRC from danger and restore the dignity of the people of Congo.

The former electoral chief, who was accompanied by M23 leader Bertrand Bisimwa, noted that the formation of the alliance was informed by the "hijacking of the electoral process at all levels by President Felix Tshisekedi's administration and his decision to carry out an electoral coup d'etat."

The formation of this military alliance prompted the DRC government to recall its ambassadors from Tanzania which hosts the headquarters of the East African Community (EAC) and Kenya for consultations Saturday.

Musalisa Mudavadi, the prime cabinet secretary who is also the cabinet secretary in the Ministry of Foreign and diaspora affairs, disassociated Kenya from such an alliance. "Kenya strongly disassociates itself from any utterances or activities likely to injure the peace and security of the friendly nation of DRC and has commenced an investigation to determine the identities of the makers of the statement and the extent to which their utterances fall outside constitutionally protected speech," Mudavadi said in a statement issued in Nairobi.

He said Kenya, whose former president Uhuru Kenyatta is the EAC bloc's facilitator and African Union envoy to the conflict in the eastern DRC, is an open and democratic state where freedom of the press is allowed. "As such, nationals and non-nationals may engage the Kenyan media without reference to the government," Mudavadi said.

Kenya further affirmed its non-involvement in the internal affairs of DRC and commits to continue supporting the peace, security, and democratic consolidation of the country, he added.

The M23 has staged a major offensive this year, seizing territory and sparking a diplomatic row between the DRC and Rwanda.

The diplomat spat comes as the DRC is due to hold its general elections on Dec. 20 in which more than 1.5 million people will not be able to vote in areas of active conflict. The elections are held to elect the president, members of national and provincial parliaments, and local offices.

Xinhua

Car smashes into Biden's motorcade outside Delaware campaign headquarters

WASHINGTON

A car smashed into a parked SUV that was part of U.S. President Joe Biden's motorcade Sunday night while Biden was leaving his campaign headquarters in the U.S. state of Delaware, according to a White House pool report.

The president was not harmed, the report said. The president and First Lady Jill Biden emerged from the 2024 reelection campaign headquarters in Delaware's downtown Wilmington around 8:00 p.m. local time (0100 GMT Monday), it said.

The first lady entered the vehicle first, saying "Happy Holidays" to the

pool.

The president then emerged and his exit was interrupted by a car that hit a motorcade SUV. "A silver copper sedan with Delaware plates hit what seemed to be a motorcade SUV shielding the motorcade at the intersection across from the entrance of the campaign headquarters," the

report said.

"There was a loud bang and POTUS (The president of the United States) was standing outside the vehicle with a surprised expression on his face," it said. Agents quickly sprung into action, cornering the car and pulling weapons on the driver, who held his hands up, it added.

ANI

WHO urges member states to continue with 'strong surveillance' amid rising respiratory diseases, JN.1 subvariant

GENEVA

IN the wake of the surge in respiratory diseases and new JN.1 COVID sub-variant, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said that the virus is evolving and changing and urged the member states to continue with strong surveillance and sequence sharing.

The global body also shared a video of its COVID-19 technical lead, Maria Van Kerkhove, who explained the reason for the recent surges and what precautions can be taken.

"Dr @mvankerkhove talks about the current surge in respiratory diseases #COVID19 and JN.1 subvariant. WHO continues to assess the situation. Follow WHO's public health advice to keep your families and friends safe during this holiday season," WHO posted on X (formerly Twitter).

Maria Van Kerkhove also took to the social media platform and said that a number of pathogens have led to the rise in respiratory diseases across the world.

"Respiratory diseases are increasing around the world due to a num-



World Health Organization Technical Lead Maria Van Kerkhove

ber of pathogens incl #COVID19, #flu, rhinovirus, mycoplasma pneumoniae & others SARS-CoV-2 continues to evolve. JN.1 (subvariant of BA.2.86) is already a VOI and continues to increase in circulation," she stated.

In the video message, Kerkhove said that the recent surge in respiratory infections is due to multiple reasons, including increased gatherings during the holiday season and other infections.

"It's not just COVID-19 that's circulating; we have influenza, other viruses, and bacteria. In other parts of the world, we are entering the winter months, and people are starting to gather for the holiday season.

And as people gather, they spend more time indoors, especially if there is poor ventilation. These pathogens that spread efficiently between people and through the air will take advantage,"

she said.

She further explained that the rise in COVID cases is because the virus is evolving, adding that 68 per cent of the current cases are cases of XBB sublineages and other groupings like JN.1.

"Covid-19 is one of the diseases that is currently on the rise, and this is again due to a number of factors; the virus SARS-Cov-2 is evolving, changing, and circulating in all countries," Kerkhove said.

She added, "In some countries, we have these XBB sublineages, and they represent around 68 per cent or so of the sequences that are shared globally. The other grouping is BA.2.86, most notably JN.1 which causes the full spectrum, everything from asymptomatic infection. All the way to severe disease and death, similar to what we have seen with other Omicron sublineages."

The WHO expert urged the member states to continue with strong surveillance and sequence sharing so that proper steps can be taken to "potentially modify" the advice for the world.

ANI

Europe grappling for united Gaza ceasefire call

BRUSSELS

MORE than two months into the Israel-Hamas conflict, violence in the Middle East has no end in sight and Europe as a neighbor is still struggling to unify around a call for ceasefire in Gaza.

The European Union (EU) summit ended on Friday without a much-expected tougher stance on the conflict or a call for immediate ceasefire, though 17 out of all its 27 members had voted for a resolution calling for a ceasefire at the United Nations (UN) on Tuesday.

In October, only eight members voted for a UN resolution advocating for a truce. Despite Europe's strong will to intercede, the conflict has torn apart the bloc itself, revealing some of its profound political, social and economic divides and triggering grave concerns among the public.

Europe's response to the Israel-Hamas conflict has been chaotic and rifts have been evident within the EU.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen's statement of unconditional support for Israel and her initial reactions after the Oct. 7 attack contrasted sharply with the approach of other EU leaders, including foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, and angered many both in Brussels and in the member states' capitals.

Nearly three weeks after the outbreak of the conflict, last-minute talks at an EU summit centered on whether to call for "a pause" or "pauses."

The bloc, struggling to agree on a united stance, has largely limited itself to supporting Israel's right to defend itself within international law and called for "pauses."

Individual member countries, such as Germany, Austria, the

Czech Republic and Hungary, have voiced strong support for Israel, while others, including Ireland, Belgium and Spain, have criticized Israel's military action.

The cacophony of European messages showed "not only a deplorable failure of coordination among EU officials," Stefan Lehne, a senior fellow at Carnegie Europe, said in an article published on the international affairs think tank's website.

"It also brought to the surface the long-standing divisions between the member states that support Israel unconditionally and others that feel equal sympathy for the suffering of the Palestinians."

From London to Paris and Berlin, Europe feels the ripples from the crisis in the Middle East as it struggles to balance fears of rising anti-Semitism and the rights of protesters, who have marched for weeks in the streets of big cities.

Rifts within the EU challenge the bloc's cohesion as members, such as Italy, re-imposed border controls, leading to "an erosion of the Schengen border-free area," Luigi Scazzieri, senior research fellow at the Center for European Reform think tank, commented.

Growing nativist anti-immigration sentiment and Islamophobia may reshape the political landscapes in many countries and boost the popularity of radical right parties, such as Germany's Alternative für Deutschland or France's Rassemblement National, he said. "These same political forces would be strengthened if the fighting sparked an influx of refugees from Gaza or from other countries in the region," Scazzieri said.

As far-right parties are garnering growing public support in coun-



European Council President Charles Michel (C) prepares to talk with the media after the first day's meeting of European Union (EU) leaders in Brussels, Belgium, Dec. 15, 2023. Xinhua

tries such as Italy, Spain, Germany and the Netherlands, Europe's shift to the right is expected to continue during the European Parliament elections next year.

While authorities across Europe have been grappling with divisions, discord and frailty, the people - many of them still traumatized by nightmarish memories from last century's wars - are anxious to see an end to the atrocity. "I'm neither anti-Semite nor anti-Muslim.

I'm just against war and violence," said Cecile J, a 50-something ophthalmologist in Luxembourg. Aghast at the bloodshed, many Europeans are angered by the soft stance and passive reactions from the EU and the governments of its member states. "The EU Council of Ministers appears as a passive spectator and just swings with the tide of opinion, while the individual governments are frightened to state their true opinions for fear of reprisal," a retiree from

the European Commission told Xinhua, speaking on condition of anonymity.

A neighbor of the Middle East and home to huge Jewish and Muslim populations, the EU has a major stake in the crisis, and the ripple effects of the conflict in Europe are feared to fuel both anti-Semitism and Islamophobia.

"I'm worried about the risk of polarization," Mathilde Bloch, a French citizen of Jewish origin, said. "It's a huge risk that Jews and Muslims born in France, all being French citizens, would oppose each other instead of joining hands."

Europe now faces a "huge risk of

terrorist attacks" over the Christmas holiday period, EU Home Affairs Commissioner Ylva Johansson warned in early December. The conflict also imperils Europe's fragile economy which is still battling recession amid inflation concerns and the aftermath of last year's energy crisis.

"I'm afraid the global economy will be affected, with oil and gas price hikes that pass on the burden to the already struggling men in the street," the retired Commission official said. Goldman Sachs said in November that the most important and potentially impactful way in which tensions could spill over into the European economy is through the oil and gas markets. Unless the energy price pressures remain contained, the Israel-Hamas conflict could have a significant impact on economic growth and inflation in the eurozone, it warned.

Xinhua

US reiterates firm support for Morocco's autonomy plan

RABAT

THERE is "no change in the clear and consistent U.S. position" regarding the Moroccan Sahara issue, said Sunday the U.S. State Department, while reiterating Washington's support for Morocco's autonomy plan viewed as "serious, credible, and realistic."

In a statement published on the eve of the visit to Morocco of U.S. Assistant Secretary for North Africa Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs Joshua Harris (Dec. 17-18), the State Department stressed that during his talks in Rabat, the U.S. official will reiterate that "there is no change in the clear and consistent U.S. position."

This new reaffirmation of the consistency of Washington's position provides a scathing denial of the fallacious allegations conveyed by some Algerian media outlets which have insinuated, following the recent visit to Algiers made by the U.S. official, an alleged change in the U.S. position on the Sahara issue. "The United States fully supports UN Personal Envoy de Mistura in facilitating the negotiations process to achieve a just, lasting, and mutually acceptable solution for the Sahara," the statement points out.

After recalling that the United States "believes a negotiated political solution should be realized without further delay," the same source underlines that "the outcome of UN-led negotiations - mutually agreed to by the parties and reflecting their commitment to UN efforts in a spirit of realism and compromise - would constitute the final resolution to this issue."

"In this regard, the United States continues to view Morocco's Autonomy Proposal as serious, credible, and realistic," it says. The visit to Rabat of Deputy Assistant Secretary Joshua Harris will also focus on the means to further strengthen the U.S.-Morocco partnership in addition to a range of regional security priorities, the statement stresses. **Agencies**

Pope condemns killing of unarmed women in Gaza Church, calls for end to violence

GAZA BORDER

TWO women were killed and seven others were injured by an Israeli military sniper inside a Catholic Church in Gaza on Saturday, according to the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, CNN reported.

The mother and daughter were walking to the Sister's Convent at the Holy Family Parish in Gaza, the patriarchate said, when gunfire erupted. "One was killed as she tried to carry the other to safety," it said on Sunday.

Seven others were also shot and wounded in the attack at the complex, where most Gaza's Christian families have taken refuge since the start of the war, according to the patriarchate, which oversees Catholic Churches across Cyprus, Jordan, Israel, Gaza and the West Bank.

"No warning was given, no notification was provided," the statement continued. "They were shot in cold blood inside the premises of the parish, where there are no belligerents."

Expressing his sorrow, Pope Francis addressed the tragic deaths during his Sunday Angelus prayer, highlighting the vulnerability of unarmed civilians in Gaza, the statement said, CNN reported.

"Unarmed civilians are targets for bombs and gunfire," Pope said, invoking scripture on the devastating impacts of war.

"I continue receiving very serious and sad news about Gaza. Unarmed civilians are targets for bombs and gunfire. And this has happened even within the parish complex of the Holy Family, where there are no terrorists, but families, children, people who are sick and have disabilities, sisters," the Pope said during his weekly Angelus prayer.

"Some are saying, 'This is terrorism and war.' Yes, it is war, it is terrorism. That is why Scripture says that 'God puts an end to war... the bow he breaks and the spear he snaps,'" the Pope continued.

"Let us pray to the Lord for peace," he added.

According to the patriarchate, the Convent of the Sisters of Mother Theresa, housing 54 disabled individuals, was also targeted by Israel Defence Forces tanks. The convent's generator, its sole electricity source, along with fuel resources, solar panels, and water tanks, were destroyed by IDF rockets. The patriarchate further reported that the convent had become uninhabitable due to the attacks, CNN reported.

Despite attempts to reach the Israel Defence Forces for comment, CNN has not received a response.

On Friday, UK lawmaker Layla Moran, whose family sought refuge in the church, said they were "beyond desperate and terrified" as conditions worsened.

Sea-rail intermodal trains give leg up to foreign trade at Qinzhou Port

AS a gateway to the sea for the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor, a trade and logistics passage jointly built by provincial-level regions in western China and ASEAN countries, Qinzhou Port in Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region has been actively promoting its advantages in sea-rail intermodal transportation, continuously unleashing its potential in foreign trade.

In the first half of this year, the total import and export value completed by provinces along the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor via Qinzhou Port reached nearly 59.5 billion yuan (\$8.41 billion), a year-on-year increase of 19.6 percent.

Six hours after a cargo ship carrying 35 containers of Thai durians docked at a deep-water berth of Dalanping South Operation Area of the Qinzhou Port, all relevant customs clearance procedures were completed. Soon, these durians were taken to the Qinzhou Port East Railway Station, where they were shipped to supermarkets and wet markets across the country through cold-chain trains.

"In recent years, fruits such as durians, mangosteens, longans, and dragon fruits imported from ASEAN coun-

tries have been very popular in the Chinese market," said Lin Mao, a sales representative of a fruit supply chain management company in southwest China's Chongqing municipality.

According to Lin, before the launching of intermodal trains along the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor, ordinary goods were usually imported via ports in the Yangtze River Delta region and then transported to the southwestern region through the Yangtze River, which took about 20 days.

"After the opening of the intermodal trains, it only takes two days for fruits like mangosteens and dragon fruits from Vietnam to reach Chongqing after completing customs procedures. Moreover, compared to road transportation, the sea-rail intermodal trains have a larger capacity and are safer," Lin told People's Daily.

As a crucial hub for the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor, the Qinzhou Port East Railway Station operates around the clock, dispatching up to 21 trains per day.

"To address the challenge of storing perishable items such as fresh fruits and meat, we have introduced refrigerated train services. The tempera-



Containers are handled at Qinzhou railway container center station in Qinzhou, south China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region. (People's Daily Online/Feng Rongquan)

ture variation is controlled within a range of 3 degrees Celsius, effectively reducing losses," said Zhao Jian, deputy head of Qinzhou Port East Railway Station, Guangxi Yanhai Railway Company Limited.

In addition to shortened shipping time, the cost of sea-rail intermodal transportation is also continuously decreasing. "According to calculations, the transportation cost per ton of talcum powder has dropped from over 500 yuan to 300 yuan, which saves us more than 4 million yuan a year," said Li Guangqiang, general manager of a talcum powder company in Guilin, Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region.

As an international land-sea intermodal hub, Qinzhou Port has attracted an increasing number of foreign trade enterprises thanks to its convenient and cost-effective access to the sea. Exports from Chongqing, Sichuan, Gansu, and other regions in China can easily transfer from land to sea transportation at Qinzhou Port.

Similarly, imported goods from abroad can also transfer from sea to land transportation there. The seamless connection between maritime and rail transport is made possible by the high level of customs facilitation.

At an automated container terminal of Qinzhou Port, a container vessel was being loaded. Containers carrying automotive parts were hoisted into the ship's hold. After the loading was completed, the vessel set sail for Indonesia.

"After these containers were cleared, it only took them 80 minutes from entering the checkpoint to being loaded onto the ship, reducing the intermediate logistics process by 12 hours compared to before," said Chang Peng, chief of the comprehensive business department at Qinzhou Port Customs.

In recent years, Qinzhou Port Customs has adopted a mode of "direct loading upon arrival" for export goods, in an attempt to reduce fees, improve efficiency, and facilitate customs clearance.

Under this mode, exporters only need to submit relevant information in advance, and once their information is verified, they can transport the goods directly from factories to Qinzhou Port for shipment, according to Chang.

Thanks to a series of optimized customs clearance measures, the efficiency of customs clearance at Qinzhou Port has significantly improved. In the first half of this year, customs clearance for imports and exports at Qinzhou Port took 41.85 hours and 1.37 hours on average, respectively, 84.35 percent and 96.46 percent lower compared to 2017.

So far, Qinzhou Port has opened a total of 69 shipping routes, connecting 393 ports in 119 countries and regions. At the same time, the sea-rail intermodal trains of the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor that take Qinzhou as a transfer hub now reach 120 stations in 61 cities across 18 provinces in China. This has greatly enhanced the capacity of sea-rail intermodal transportation.

The rapid development couldn't have been achieved without the construction of intelligent ports and terminals. The first phase of Qinzhou Port's automated container terminal has been put into operation and is equipped with intelligent and efficient automated handling devices and horizontal transportation devices, said Wen Zuyi, deputy general manager of Beibu Gulf Port. **People's Daily**

Simba SC and Yanga hampered by poor start in 2023/24 CAF Champions League

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

THE 2023/24 CAF Champions League Group Stage began in October and Tanzania is among the few countries in Africa with two teams in the stage.

Both Simba SC and Yanga, which command a great following in the country's soccer, have sailed through to showpiece's Group Stage, which brings together the best teams on the continent.

For so many teams on the continent, getting to the showdown's Group Stage has never been a small feat and any club that gets to that point has never looked easy.

Simba SC has been a team that regularly entered the Group Stage in the past few years and one can see that in seven seasons the side has made it to the stage on three occasions.

The rival, Yanga, which surprised Africa by making it to the final of the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup and still did not lose composure, has never participated in the Group Stage of the premier continental tournament since 1998.

After three outings in the 2023/24 CAF Champions League, Yanga, placed in Group D of the showdown, has managed to register two points.

The Jangwani Street outfit began with a 3-0 loss to Algeria's CR Belouizdad at Stade du 5 Juillet, Algiers on November 24.

Yanga thereafter battled to a 1-1 draw with Egypt's Al Ahly in a tie played at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on December 2 this year.

In the following fixture, Yanga registered a 1-1 draw with Medeama SC of Ghana in Kumasi on December 8.

The results mean from 1998 until today, Yanga has not managed to win any of the Group Stage matches in the premier continental tournament.

If a domestic soccer follower looks at Simba SC's performance in this season's competition, he/she will find out the Msimbazi Street side is also finding the going tough.

Simba SC has not lost a game but has hardly made its presence felt in Group B of the showdown.

The Msimbazi Street club opened its campaign with a 1-1



Simba SC midfielder, Clatous Chama (R), shoots past Jwaneng Galaxy players when the clubs met in a 2023-24 CAF Champions League Group B tie played in Francistown, Botswana on Saturday and ended in a 0-0 draw. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

draw with Ivory Coast's ASEC Mimosas in Dar es Salaam on November 25.

In the following match, the Msimbazi Street side settled for a 0-0 draw with the perceived minnows, Botswana's, Jwaneng Galaxy, Francistown on December 2.

Simba SC went on to succumb to a 1-0 defeat to fellow strugglers, Morocco's Wydad AC, in Marrakesh on December 9.

The results have left Simba placed at the bottom of Group B with two points from three ties.

Having collected a mere two points from three clashes is not good enough for Simba SC to impress its fans who have not seen their team win for almost four games in a row.

The Msimbazi Street outfit has undoubtedly started on the wrong foot and has a very difficult task of seeking to bounce back in

the remaining fixtures.

The outfit, which today welcomes Wydad AC to Dar es Salaam, has already featured in one home match and is left with two home fixtures- which compel the club to notch victory to stand a chance of making it to the knockout stage.

Yanga has played three ties and managed to post two points to occupy the bottom spot in Group D. Medeama SC- positioned third in the group after starting with a 3-0 defeat away to Al Ahly- bounced back with a hard-fought 2-1 win over Algeria's CR Belouizdad in Kumasi on December 1.

There is every reason for the two Tanzanian outfits to plan properly because it will be a huge milestone for the duo to secure progression to the knockout stage of the premier continental showpiece.

It will also be a shame if Tanzania fails to at least field one club in the last eight stages of the competition.

The two teams can sail through to the more intriguing last-eight stage if they embark on better preparations for their respective groups' matches.

Yanga had chiefly targeted qualification for the Group Stage of the showpiece and the outfit has lived up to its expectations.

The Jangwani Street side might however dream of stepping up should it secure progression to the last eight stage, the same way it did in the previous season's CAF Confederation Cup.

Simba SC is determined to sail through to the quarterfinals, a feat which has previously been achievable, but now the club cannot do so unless it performs well in the Group Stage.

TFF introduces VAR in NBC Premier League

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

TANZANIA Football Federation (TFF) president, Wallace Karia, has announced that the Confederation of African Football (CAF) has provided Video Assistant Referee (VAR) equipment for use in Mainland Tanzania's NBC Premier League matches.

Karia disclosed at the 18th TFF Annual General Meeting which took place in Iringa early this week, emphasizing that the facilities will be installed in stadiums meeting CAF and FIFA criteria.

The TFF official noted: "VAR will be operational at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium. Experts arrived on Friday for training sessions, focusing on stadiums meeting the required parameters."

"We aim to implement VAR across all stadiums after assessing improvements," Karia explained.

Anticipating a reduction in referee errors, Karia highlighted the positive impact of VAR technology, whose implementation is expected to commence soon following CAF's decision to provide the equipment to Tanzania.

Speaking at the TFF Annual General Meeting on December 16, Karia emphasized that the installation would occur in stadiums meeting both CAF and FIFA standards.

The TFF boss noted: "We've received VAR from CAF, continuing

our good relationship. Training by experts began yesterday, and it will be implemented to 'standard' quality."

"The Referees Committee, responsible for the management, will receive assistance, led by CAF referee trainer Leslie Liunda," Karia added.

The TFF leader expressed potential consideration for VAR implementation at Amaan Stadium in Zanzibar.

The Annual General Meeting, attended by three representatives from each region, discussed matters involving the executive committee, allied parties, and special guests, including Acting Director of Sports Development, Ally Mayay.

Notably, representatives from partner associations, such as the Tanzania Football Coaches Association (TAFCA) and Referee Association (FRAT) were present.

Members of the Sports Medicine Association (TASMA), Soccer Players Union (Sputanza), and Women's Football Association (TWFA) were equally in attendance.

Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports Damas Ndumbaro, congratulated TFF for effective governance, contributing to success in the sport.

The accolades were delivered by Acting Director of Sports Development, Mayay, during the TFF Annual General Meeting.

Dodoma Jiji FC eyes coach Francis Baraza



Kenyan soccer coach, Francis Baraza.

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi & Agencies

FORMER Kagera Sugar FC head coach, Kenyan Francis Baraza, is closing in on a return to Mainland Tanzania's NBC Premier League as his talks with Dodoma Jiji FC enter the final stage.

Dodoma Jiji FC has endured a three-match losing streak following the outfit's unbeaten run in four ties of the top flight.

Baraza has been out of employment since September when he was shown the door by FKF Premier League club, Kenya Police FC. He was replaced by Croat Zdravko Logarusic. The matter has since become a legal tussle, with Baraza demanding KES 4.5 million (73,705,632.93/-) in compensation.

Last week, Dodoma Jiji FC axed former Coastal Union head coach, Melis Medo, after a poor run in the league and turned to Baraza in a bid to turn the side's fortunes around.

The two parties have been in talks for a couple of days now, and a source from the capital city club has confirmed that it is just a matter of time before the ex-Kenyan

international is unveiled.

A source at the club stated: "We are almost there. We have agreed on most of the issues, and what's left is some bit of paperwork before we can say everything has been completed."

"Once we sort that out, then we will officially unveil Baraza as our new head coach," the source disclosed.

Baraza, the former central midfielder, has previously handled Kenya's Sony Sugar FC, Muhoroni Youth FC, and Western Stima. He won the league with Sony Sugar FC in 2006 in what was his first managerial job.

In recent weeks, he was linked with a move to another Kenyan side, Shabana FC, but the deal failed to materialize, and the 'Glamour Boys' continue to look for a new head coach seven weeks after Sam Okoth exited the club.

Dodoma Jiji FC, which has lost the squad's last three league games, is currently sitting ninth in the Premier League log with 15 points.

The next fixture for Dodoma Jiji FC was set to see the squad confront Ihefu SC on Monday afternoon.

MMJKT holds sway in 2023 Champion of Champions Boxing Championship

By Guardian Correspondent

THE 2023 Champion of Champions Boxing Championship continued in Iringa on Sunday, with semi-final bouts taking place.

In the 48kg division, Abdallah Maganga from JKT won on points against Hamadi Hashim also from JKT.

In the 51 kg division, Iddi Athumani from JKT beat Saidi Mtibal from Ngome by points while Bakari Barisho from MMJKT won against Kaim Said, also from MMJKT, on points.

In the 54 kg division, Aziz Chala from Ngome earned a walkover after his opponent failed to appear in the ring.

In 57kg, Stephano Mika from MMJKT won against Hussein Chonde, also from MMJKT, by points while John Dominick from Ngome won against Mohamed Ismail also from Ngome by points.

In the 60kg division, Mwarami Salum from MMJKT garnered a walkover after his opponent failed to appear in the ring while Hassani Mrutu from Ngome won against Steven Ngira also from Ngome by points.

In 63.5kg, King Lucas from

Ngome won against Sebastian Kalinga from MMJKT while Sikudhani Saimon from Ngome won against Edward Samki from MMJKT.

In 71kg, Athanas Ndiganya from Ngome won by Knockout (KO) against Odea Mussa from Iringa while Joseph Philipo from JKT also won by KO against Yusuph Silvester from Iringa.

In 75kg, Eliankunda Daniel from MMJKT won by walkover after his opponent failed to turn up for the fight, while Alphonse Abel also from MMJKT won against Uled Rashid from Ngome by points.

In 80kg, Kevin Malya from Iringa won against Hassani Waziri from Ngome.

In the 92+kg division, Muhina Moris from Ngome won against Abdul Msanya from Iringa by KO while Matonyinga Fidelis beat Warioba Singano from Ngome by KO. According to Boxing Federation of Tanzania (TBF) secretary-general Makore Mashaga, the championship was officially opened on Sunday by the Iringa's Culture and Sports Officer, Carlos Mbiga, on behalf of the Iringa Regional Commissioner Halima Dendegu.



Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC)'s tennis player, Idris Dossaji, hits a shot during the Justifit Inter-Schools Games which took place at the club's courts recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Madrid thrash Villarreal to go top but Alaba injured

MADRID

REAL Madrid cruised to a 4-1 win over Villarreal on Sunday to move top of La Liga but their night was tarnished when defender David Alaba suffered a serious knee injury.

Carlo Ancelotti's side are a point ahead of Catalan minnows Girona, who host Alaves on Monday and will be looking to reclaim pole position.

Spain's top scorer Jude Bellingham broke the deadlock for Madrid with his 13th league goal of the season before Rodrygo Goes doubled their lead.

Villarreal pulled one back through Jose Luis Morales, but Brahim Diaz scored a superb solo goal to restore Madrid's advantage.

Luka Modric drove home the fourth as Madrid fans celebrated a sizeable victory in their final home match of the year.

Madrid's joy was tempered by Alaba's injury, confirmed by the club in a statement, saying the defender needs surgery.

The Austrian joins a long list of players out, including Thibaut Courtois, Eder Militao and Eduardo Camavinga, all with knee injuries, and winger Vinicius Junior among others.

Ancelotti said Alaba's injury was "very sad" but praised his team's performance.

"We think we are doing very well, it was one of our best games," said the coach.

The highlight of the night was Diaz's fine individual strike.

"It's the kind of move I usually try, today it went in, so I'm very happy," Diaz told Real Madrid TV. "(I'm happy) for the team's work, we did a great job today and I'm happy for the goal and for the win."

Former Manchester City midfielder Diaz is striking up a fruitful relationship with Bellingham and Rodrygo in attack.

"We understand each other well, we all get along because it's an incredible group, we are very united and you see that on the pitch," he added.

Ancelotti put his faith in England international Bellingham to take an attacking role this season for Madrid and it is paying off in virtually every match.

The 20-year-old netted his 17th goal across all competitions in his 20th match this season to get the party started after Madrid saw rivals Barcelona, third, held at Valencia on Saturday.

Madrid, playing at the renovated Santiago Bernabeu with the new roof closed for just the second time, made the early running against Villarreal.

They got their reward midway through the first half when Bellingham leaped high to nod home Modric's delicious clipped cross.

After Alaba's injury, sustained while trying to challenge Gerard Moreno, Rodrygo doubled the lead from close range.

It was the Brazilian's eighth goal in his last eight games for Real Madrid, continuing his own superb goalscoring form of late after a slow start to the campaign.

Early in the second half, Villarreal pulled one back, with Morales finishing past Andriy Lunin, selected over Kepa Arrizabalaga.

But Diaz whisked the visitors' hope away when he turned brilliantly away from Aissa Mandi in midfield, drove forward, swerved Jorge Cuenca and finished with ease.

After Modric added the fourth, Madrid fans brought out the 'ole' chants as their team passed the ball around an increasingly frustrated Villarreal.

Madrid now have 38 goals in La Liga, equalling Girona's total as the top scorers to date.

Midfielder Aurelien Tchouameni made his return from injury as a substitute in the final stages for Los Blancos, who open up a seven-point lead on third-place Barcelona.

"It's always good to build an advantage on Barca but there's a long way to go in the league and we have to continue with this mentality," said Rodrygo.

Marcelino's Villarreal languish 14th, three points above the relegation zone.

Earlier Real Sociedad and Real Betis shared the spoils in an intense 0-0 draw on Sunday in La Liga.

Both teams lost ground on Athletic Bilbao, fifth, who beat fourth-placed Atletico Madrid on Saturday.

La Real, sixth, trail their Basque rivals by two points, while Betis, seventh, are five points behind Athletic.

Battling Man Utd hold Liverpool as Arsenal top Premier League



Arsenal's Gabriel Jesus celebrates his goal against Brighton. Agencies

LONDON

MANCHESTER United ended Liverpool's perfect record at Anfield on Sunday, holding the Premier League title chasers to a 0-0 draw after wins for Arsenal and Aston Villa.

Jurgen Klopp's men came into the match widely expected to inflict yet more agony on their bitter rivals and boasting 11 wins from 11 games in all competitions at home this season.

Liverpool dominated, hogging nearly 70 percent of possession and had 34 shots to United's six but they could not break down their stubborn opponents.

Klopp's men finish the day second in the table, a point behind Arsenal's tally of 39 after the Gun-

ners earlier beat Brighton 2-0.

The result was a moral victory for beleaguered United manager Erik ten Hag, whose team last season suffered a 7-0 drubbing at Anfield and came into the match with 12 defeats in 24 games in the current campaign.

United were missing suspended captain Bruno Fernandes while out-of-form Marcus Rashford was once again on the bench.

But they dug deep and stopped their slide after a heavy home defeat against Bournemouth last week and a tame Champions League exit in midweek.

United goalkeeper Andre Onana reacted sharply to keep out a close-range Virgil van Dijk header in the first half and the visitors could even have won the

game, but Rasmus Hojlund's shot was blocked at the near post by Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson Becker.

Van Dijk said Liverpool were frustrated by the result, believing they were "superior in all aspects".

"If you see how we played the game, we had most of the ball and created some opportunities," he told Sky Sports. "There was only one team trying to win the game."

"We want to win every game of course and that is why it is frustrating. Sometimes we shot too easy and could have passed on the overlap. The right decision was sometimes lacking."

Ten Hag said his team defended almost perfectly but added that they needed to show more consistency.

"We play in very high

highs and also sometimes in very low lows," he said. "If you want to achieve something in a season you can't be below certain limits so we have to get the consistency."

"This was a very good performance. You saw Liverpool's results at home and we got a clean sheet. In the second half we had some very good chances."

There was a sour note as Liverpool issued a statement condemning attacks on United's team bus before the match, vowing to punish those responsible.

- Arsenal dominate - Mikel Arteta's Arsenal, runners-up to Manchester City last season, dominated at the Emirates, wasting a succession of openings but they finally broke through in the 53rd minute. Brighton defender Jan

Paul van Hecke jumped to head a corner away but could only flick it into the path of Gabriel Jesus, who headed the ball into an empty net.

Kai Havertz doubled the lead for the Gunners in the closing minutes, slotting past goalkeeper Bart Verbruggen after being found by Eddie Nketiah.

"Incredible performance," Arteta told the BBC. "A joy to watch from the start to the end. The way we did it against this very good team."

Across London, Unai Emery's Villa fell behind to a Keane Lewis-Potter goal on the stroke of half-time.

However, Brentford's Ben Mee was sent off in the 71st minute and six minutes later Villa were level when Alex Moreno got on the end of a Leon Bailey cross.

Ollie Watkins completed the turnaround against his former club when he headed in a Boubacar Kamara flick-on from a corner with five minutes to go to make it 2-1.

Kamara was sent off in the closing minutes for violent conduct.

Mohammed Kudus scored twice and Lucas Paqueta provided all three assists at the London Stadium as West Ham beat Wolves 3-0.

The weekend's Premier League action was overshadowed by a shocking incident at Bournemouth, where Luton captain Tom Lockyer suffered a cardiac arrest, forcing Saturday's game to be abandoned.

Luton confirmed Lockyer was responsive before being taken to hospital and was in a "stable" condition. In an update on Sunday the club said he was undergoing tests and scans.

Meanwhile, Erik ten Hag said Manchester

United could take a lot of positives from their 0-0 stalemate against Liverpool on Sunday despite being dominated by the home side.

United have had a terrible season -- they came into the match with 12 defeats in their 24 games and an appalling recent record against their bitter rivals, who beat them 7-0 last season.

Liverpool enjoyed nearly 70 percent of possession on Sunday and had 34 shots to United's six but they could not break down their stubborn opponents.

Ten Hag praised his embattled team, who last week lost 3-0 to Bournemouth before crashing out of the Champions League in midweek.

"I think the performance was very good from our side," he told the BBC. "The game plan went well, the players were brilliant, how they stuck together and were in the fight."

"My only criticism would be in possession we could hurt them more, if you get one, two, three passes in. But that's the only thing. If we scored one of the big opportunities we could have won this game."

"Liverpool is a very good team, a very good attacking team and a lot of movement. You have to defend very disciplined and it is a big compliment to the team how they did -- the spirit, and the passion and desire was there."

The Dutchman admitted that he had wanted to avenge last season's 7-0 hammering at Anfield.

"It was a big loss -- of course you want to take revenge," he said. "We have a good squad, a good team and we can make something out of this season."

AFP



Pep Guardiola has seen his side throw away several games this season. Agencies

By Neil Jones

PEP Guardiola admitted Manchester City's inability to close out games is costing his side after they dropped more ground on their rivals with a 2-2 draw against Crystal Palace.

The reigning Premier League champions looked in control when leading 2-0 with 14 minutes remaining at the Etihad Stadium but lost their way in the closing stages, and were eventually denied by Michael Olise's stoppage-time penalty.

Their collapse continues a worrying recent trend for Guardiola, who has now watched his team throw away strong positions against Chelsea, Liverpool, Tottenham and now Palace in recent weeks.

City's numbers certainly make for interesting reading. They are the Premier League's top scorers with 40, but have also conceded 20, as many as 16th-placed Everton. They have kept only one clean sheet in their last 11 league games.

Furthermore, after 17 games, they have their lowest points total since 2016-17, Guardiola's first season with the club, and they have now failed to win three straight home league games for the first time in seven years.

That gives hope to rivals, especially Liverpool and Arsenal, both of whom can make up further ground as City head for the Club World Cup in Saudi Arabia. Were results to go their way, Liverpool could be as many as 12 points clear of City

The numbers that prove Pep Guardiola right - Manchester City are failing to close out games

before Guardiola's side return to Premier League action on Dec 27.

"Of course, we have to win games to make it depend on ourselves," Guardiola said. "It's not for us to think about the distance, about what they do and what would be possible."

"I have the feeling here that the last three games we played here where we dropped points, we were excellent, but the reality is that we got three points."

"We could not win it,

but the performance was really good. But at the end, we were not able to close the games."

Guardiola was particularly irked by Palace's equaliser on Saturday, with first Phil Foden and then Bernardo Silva conceding possession before Foden's clumsy challenge on Jean-Philippe Mateta saw a penalty awarded.

"Football is about closing games," Guardiola said. "Don't give away that penalty and the game will

be over. If Phil kept the ball in that position or Bernardo kept the ball in that position, the game was over."

"In the last minutes when it was 2-1, we have to control it better."

City flew to Saudi Arabia on Saturday evening, with Guardiola admitting the mood on their seven-hour flight would be a sombre one. They face Japanese side Urawa Red Diamonds on Wednesday before a potential final against Fluminense,

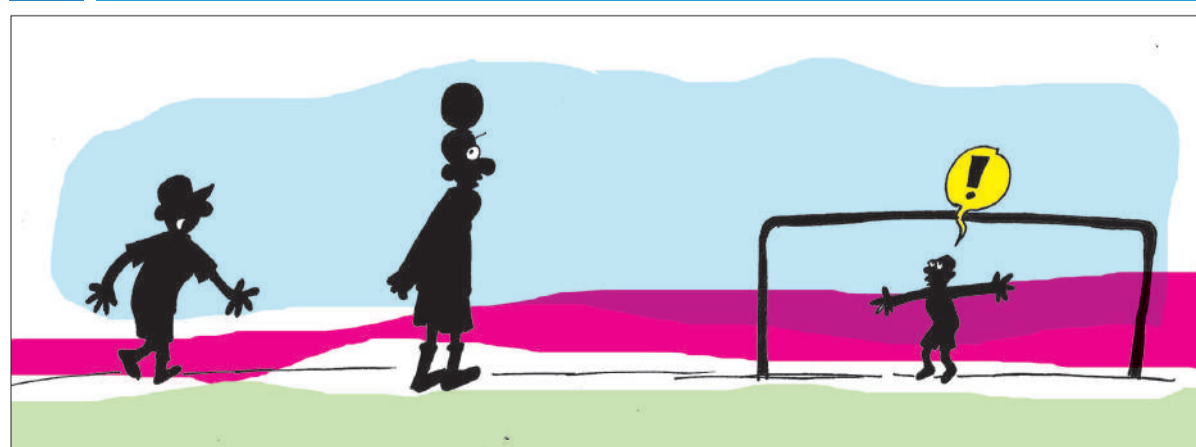
of Brazil, or the African champions Al-Ahly on Sunday.

"We love to go to play in the Club World Cup," Guardiola said. "To go there you have to win the Champions League, so I'm very pleased and excited to go there to try and win it."

"Years ago we could not imagine being there, and we are there. Today it is more difficult but we have to lift the mood tomorrow."

THE TELEGRAPH

Gwiji by David Chikoko



AFP



SPORT

The numbers that prove Pep Guardiola right – Man City are failing to close out games

PAGE 19



South Africa seals a double in 2023 African Schools Football Championship qualifiers

HARARE

SOUTH Africa completed a 'double' for the second year in a row as they claimed both the Boys' and Girls' titles in the 2023 African Schools Football Championship (COSAFA) Qualifier, held in Zimbabwe on Saturday.

Both will advance to the continental finals to be played next year, having come out on top following a superb three days of school football action in the Zimbabwean capital of Harare.

The Boys' team, made up predominantly of players from the Ubuntu Football Academy School in Cape Town, defeated Malawi 3-0 on penalties after the teams had played to a 1-1 draw in a pulsating final.

Malawi took the lead on the stroke of halftime in the Boys' final as Okestar Kanyenda scored a superb goal when he struck the ball on the volley and into the far post.

Malawi had several promising attacks but were repeatedly caught offside before South Africa made them pay.

Rhys Ferguson saw his initial shot on the volley come back off the post, but he reacted quickest to the loose ball to send it into the net and take the game to spot-kicks.

South Africa scored all of theirs, but Malawi missed each of their penalties as Amos Nyirenda struck the crossbar, and Tinga Nkhoma and James Msongole had their efforts saved by goalkeeper Sabrie Losper.

Hosts Zimbabwe claimed third place in the Boys' competition with a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Namibia in their bronze-medal match.

It was a game of few clear-cut chances, but the best fell to the hosts. It looked as though they would be taken to penalties before El Shaddai Sadomba scored a fantastic goal late on.

He picked up the ball in the box and fired a low shot into the bottom corner, beating the outstretched dive of the goalkeeper.

It caps a fine tournament for Zimbabwe, who will be ruing their one poor performance - an opening 4-0 loss to Malawi that put them on the back foot in their pool. Otherwise, they were excellent.

South Africa, made up mostly of players from Edendale Technical High School, claimed gold in the Girls' final with a 3-1 victory over Botswana, who pushed them all the way.

Khwezi Khoza, who finished as the leading scorer in the competition with 11 goals, netted twice for the South Africans to go with a goal for livewire winger Rethabile Molefe.

Botswana's consolation goal came from Amogelang Sebotho, who was impressive throughout the competition.

Mozambique were comfortable winners in the Girls' bronze-medal match as they defeated Namibia 4-0, the latter unlucky to finish fourth and outside the medals in both the Boys' and Girls' events.

The excellent Isabel Cuinhane scored all four goals for Mozambique in a dominant display from their side.

South Africa's Simama Inganathi was named Player of the Tournament in the Boys' competition, while Losper took home the Golden Glove. Team-mate Rhys

Ferguson and Zimbabwe's Sadomba shared the Golden Boot having scored four goals each.

Hosts Zimbabwe also took home the Fair Play award.

South Africa's Katleho Malebana was named Player of the Tournament in the Girls' category, while teammates Angel Zibula won the Golden Glove and Khoza the Golden Boot. Namibia won the Fair Play prize.

The winning associations in the two categories take home \$100,000, the runners-up \$75,000, and third place \$50,000.

The awards are decided by the Technical Study Group at the tournament, using data gained from the players' performances in each match.

AGENCIES

Simba SC takes on Wydad AC in high-stakes CAF CL tie



Simba SC players are pictured participating in training at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam yesterday in preparation for the 2023/24 CAF Champions League Group B tie against Morocco's Wydad AC slated to take place at the stadium in the evening. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

DAR ES SALAAM'S Benjamin Mkapa Stadium braces for a seismic clash this evening as Simba SC confronts Morocco's Wydad AC in a 2023/24 CAF Champions League Group B encounter, with destiny hanging in the balance.

The tie's kick-off has been set for 4 pm EAT, and the air crackles with a palpable tension, for this is not just another match.

It is a battle cry, a roar that could reverberate across Dar es Salaam and propel Simba SC towards the coveted knockout stage.

Victory is all but mandatory for the home side which has not secured a win in this CAF Champions League campaign.

A win over Wydad AC, the previous season's showdown finalist, would boost Simba SC's hopes of securing a last-eight qualification.

Such a feat will ignite the nation's hopes and silence doubters who whispered of a faltering campaign for Simba SC.

The Msimbazi Street side is expected to be ear-splitting, urging the outfit's heroes to unleash their predatory in-

stincts and hunt down three crucial points.

Wydad AC, however, is not an easy opponent. The Moroccan football giant, draped in the aura of continental dominance, comes bearing the scars of recent continental disappointment, but the side's hunger for the top honour remains undimmed.

The club's head coach Faouzi Benzarti will likely field a battle-hardened squad, with the squad's experience turning out to be a potential counterpoint to Simba SC's fiery passion.

This evening's contest transcends the confines of

the pitch. It is a clash of titans, a test of nerve, and a crucible for Simba SC's aspirations.

Simba SC faithful are ready to paint the stadium red and gold, with their voices turning out to be a unifying force.

Can Simba SC tame the Wydad AC dragon and roar its way into the next stage of the showdown?

Fans who will not make it to the venue should tune in tonight and be prepared to be swept away by the electrifying drama of African football's grandest stage.

Simba SC head coach Abdelhak Benchikha has on

several occasions branded the match as a finale, insisting that any drop of essential points would be suicidal for his side.

"It is the finale, we must win the game because if we do not win, we will remain with two points which cannot take us anywhere. We need to win the match," Benchikha said.

He then seized the platform to encourage many Simba SC fans to descend to the venue in big numbers and rally behind their team as they tried to suffocate the visitors.

Meanwhile, Group B leader ASEC Mimosas boasts

seven points followed by unfancied Jwaneng Galaxy with four points.

Wydad AC now sits third with three points courtesy of its victory over Simba SC, and the Tanzanian club is languishing at the bottom with two points in the bag.

Already, the Msimbazi Street-based club indicated that the squad's CAF Champions League target of the season semi-final progression.

Before welcoming the Moroccan side, Simba SC won 3-0 against Kagera Sugar in the NBC Premier League duel at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam last Friday.

Lakred secures first-team spot at Simba SC amidst Aishi's absence

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

IN the last two matches of the 2023/24 CAF Champions League, Moroccan goalkeeper Ayoub Lakred showcased exceptional skill, solidifying his position in Simba SC's first team.

This standout performance not only ensured his role in the squad but also saved him from potential exclusion before the upcoming transfer window closing on January 15 next year.

Lakred, initially among the speculated players facing exclusion from Simba SC, found a lifeline with the arrival of head coach Abdelhak Benchikha and the less impressive displays by Aishi Manula.

The Moroccan keeper's stellar performance in matches against CAF Champions League opponents from Botswana Jwaneng Galaxy, and Morocco's Wydad AC, positioned Lakred as a key player for his outfit.

Benchikha recognized this, leading to Lakred's recent participation in the Premier League game against Kagera Sugar.

Lakred, who joined Simba SC from Morocco's AS FAR Rabat at the beginning of the season, has proved his worth not only through skill but also due to injuries plaguing the team's dependable goalkeeper, Manula.

Manula was subjected to a long injury layoff, having been injured in the Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) match pitting Simba SC against Ifehu SC on April 7, 2022.

The shot-stopper remained sidelined until his appearance in this season's NBC Premier League tie between and long-time rival, Yanga, on November 5 this year, which ended with Simba SC succumbing to a humiliating 5-1 defeat.

His subsequent call-up to the senior national team revealed the extent of his injury, providing Lakred with an opportunity to showcase his tal-

ent. Given Lakred's impressive performance and Manula's prolonged recovery period, the coaching staff has abandoned plans to replace Lakred. He is now entrusted as the team's number one goalkeeper, with other goalies - Hussein Abel and Ally Salim - relegated to the bench.

While Simba SC has not disclosed detailed information about Manula's injuries, it is known that he may remain sidelined until February next year. As per the current schedule, Manula might miss four Premier League matches, including the recent fixture against Kagera Sugar.

Others are the upcoming matches against Kinondoni Municipal Council FC, Tabora United, and Mashujaa FC, as well as the CAF Champions League game against Wydad AC.

Additionally, he is set to be absent for the entire 2024 Mapinduzi Cup showdown to be held in Zanzibar.



Simba SC's Moroccan keeper, Ayoub Lakred. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

Flexibles by David Chikoko

